## Consumers win; Meralco assets report rejected

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

DI NAMAN PALA TAYO ANG PINAKA-GRABE, E!

### 'Snail mail' took 100 years

LONDON—This would probably be the classic example of "snail mail."

A postcard bearing a British halfpenny stamp decorated with the head of King Edward VII has reached its destination—around 100 years late.

The card, whose

SNAIL/A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

### Bush endorses Filipino vets bill

THERE had been no signals from past US administrations for support of the long-pending Filipino Veterans Equity bill in the US Congress.

But now US President George W. Bush has endorsed the bill that would give Filipino World War II veterans in the United States the same medical benefits enjoyed by their American

BUSH/A19

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, April 18, 2002 ★ 50 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 129 P15 website: www.inq7.net

# GMA: No to Jancom deal

## *'I won't sign flawed contract'*

**By Dona Pazzibugan and Juliet Javellana**

**CALLING it a "flawed contract," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she wasn't likely to sign the controversial $350-million Jancom incinerator agreement.**

She told reporters she was leaving it up to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to judge the contract's merits. "But just (from) listening (to the arguments) and reading (the documents), I don't think I'll sign it," she said.

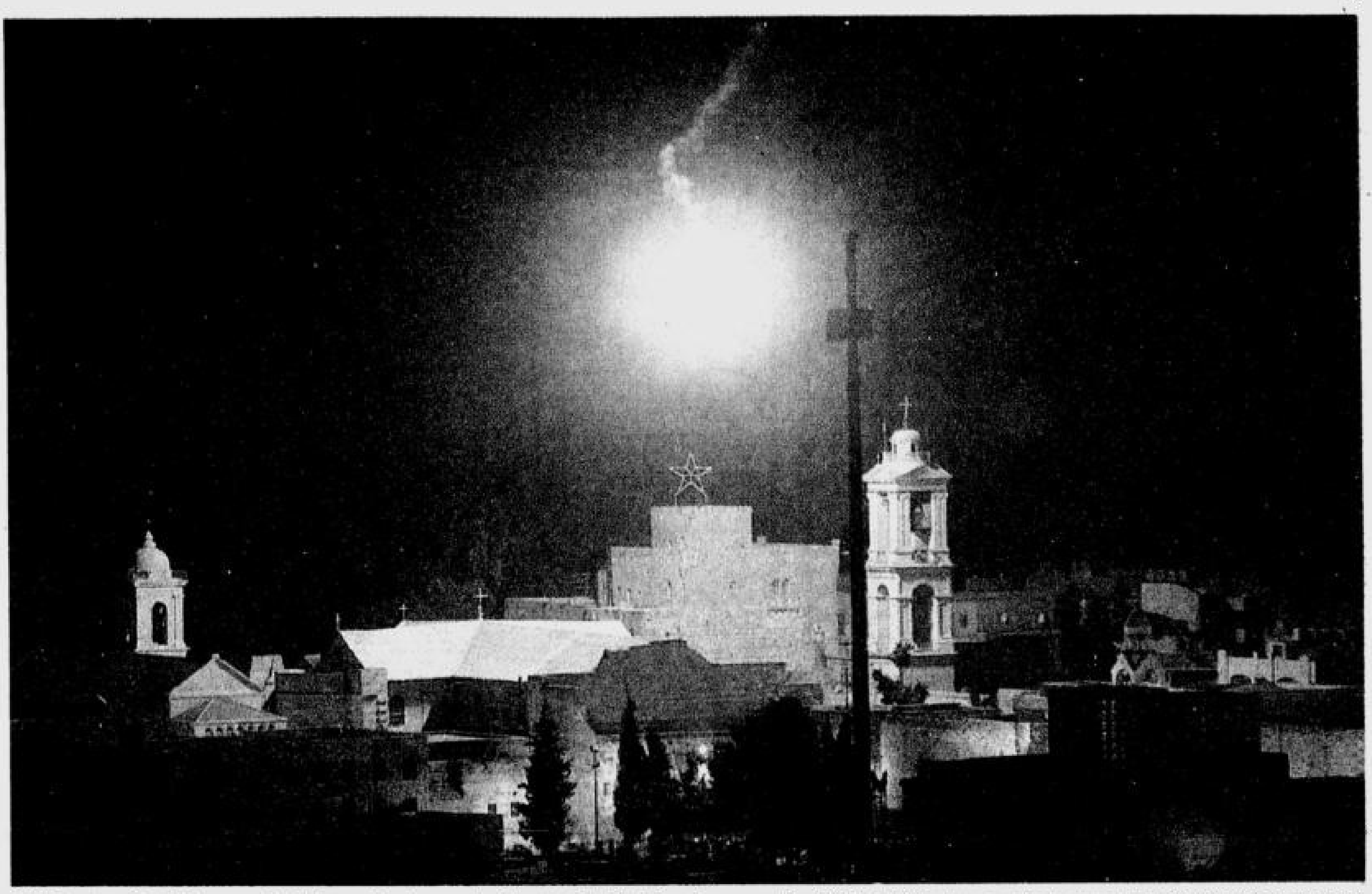
It is unlikely that the President's statement will settle the issue once and for all, however. The Supreme Court's decision has emboldened an ongoing congressional inquiry to summon two former presidents as witnesses.

"I'm not (under) any pressure right now to sign a flawed contract," Ms Macapagal said. But she did not say whether she wants the MMDA to renegotiate the agreement, which Jancom in a press statement yesterday described as "an integrated waste management build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract." Jancom also said it was "cooperating with the government and will of course consider whatever the government (will) decide to do."

In a resolution dated April 10, the Supreme Court declared the contract, which the government awarded to Jancom Environmental Corp. in 1997, a valid and perfected one. But the high court also ruled that the contract needed the President's signature to take effect.

In Congress, Rep. Nereus Acosta advised the President not to sign the contract.

GMA/A19


GETTY IMAGES

**LIKE the star of Bethlehem, gunfire lights up the sky over the Church of the Nativity where more than 200 Palestinian troops, priests, nuns and civilians have been trapped.**

## Powell's Mideast peace mission fails

RAMALLAH, West Bank—US Secretary of State Colin Powell wrapped up his Middle East peace mission yesterday with no sign of a ceasefire, with Israeli forces still in Ramallah and Bethlehem, and amid Palestinian accusations that the situation had only gotten worse.

Powell met Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat for the second time yesterday, but at the end of the two-hour meeting a Palestinian official described the talks as a "catastrophe."

"I want to thank (Powell) for what he has done and what he is trying to do," Arafat told reporters at his besieged headquarters here, but others were more blunt about the results.

Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat, who attended the meeting, said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had torpedoed efforts to reach a truce. Palestinian information minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, quoted by Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite television, said the meeting was a "catastrophe."

Powell received another setback after presidential sources in Cairo said the meeting between Powell and Egyp-

POWELL'S/A18

## Bin Laden is alive, says US intelligence

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration has concluded that Osama bin Laden was at Tora Bora when US aircraft began bombing on Nov. 30 but he was able to escape because US ground troops were not sent to pursue the al-Qaida leader, The Washington Post reported on Wednesday.

Intelligence officials have what they consider to be decisive evidence, gleaned from interrogations and intercepted communications, that Bin Laden was inside the Tora Bora complex along Afghanistan's mountainous eastern border when the battle began, the Post said. He escaped in the first 10 days of December.

After singling out for months Saudi-born extremist Bin Laden as Public Enemy No. 1 and the evil mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, President George W. Bush has lately refrained from mentioning him, extolling instead the success in dismantling al-Qaida and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

BIN/A18

## Consumers win; Meralco assets report rejected

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

CONSUMERS scored a victory at yesterday's hearing on Manila Electric Co.'s proposed unbundled rates when the Energy Regulatory Commission rejected an appraisal report on the utility firm's assets.

The report, prepared by Asian Appraisal Co., placed Meralco's assets at P67 billion as of December 2000. The value of the assets determines the rate of the firm's profitability as measured by the return on rate base (RORB), the basis for the proposed rates.

Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson for the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, noted that Meralco and Asian Appraisal had an agreement that the information could not be presented as evidence for a rate hike petition.

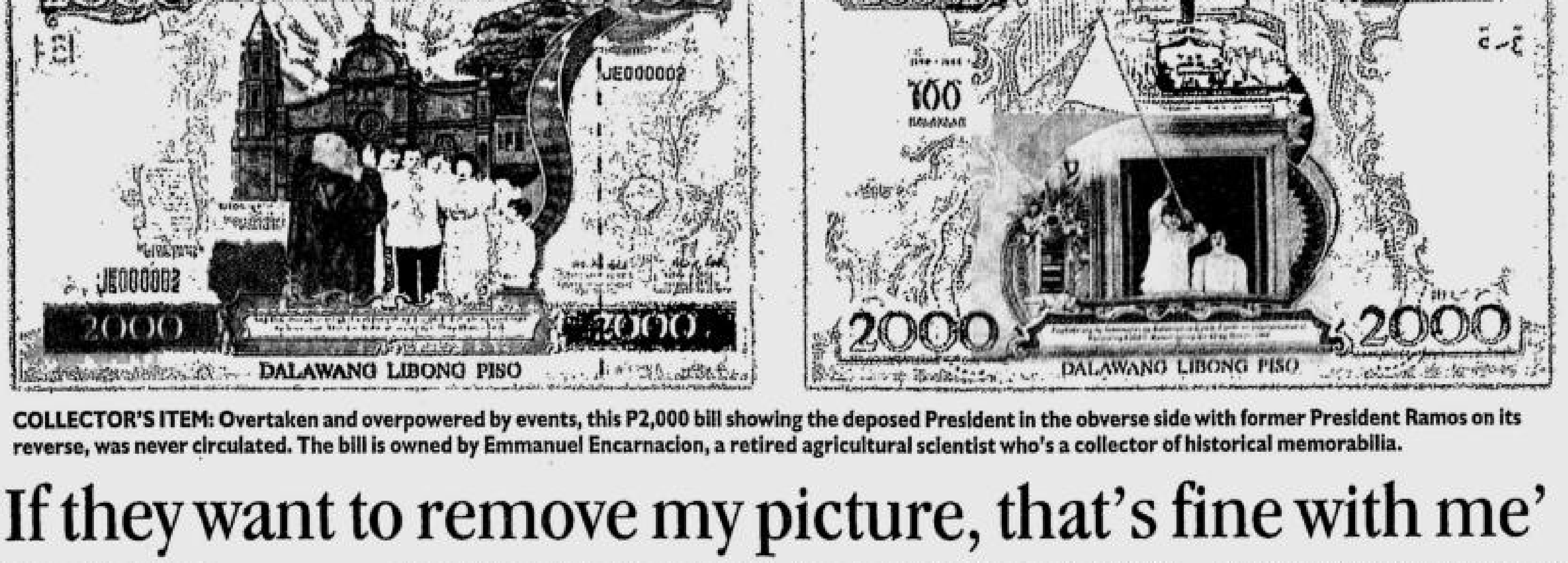
"Meralco committed gross dishonesty and deception when they presented a manufactured appraisal of its assers," Reyes said.

Filipina Tuason, vice president of Asian Appraisal, told reporters later that the report could only be used for internal purposes.

"The purpose of this report was different when we were preparing it (between) 1998 and 2000," Tuason said after being excused from the witness stand.

The five commissioners called for a

CONSUMERS/A18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**COLLECTOR'S ITEM: Overtaken and overpowered by events, this P2,000 bill showing the deposed President in the obverse side with former President Ramos on its reverse, was never circulated. The bill is owned by Emmanuel Encarnacion, a retired agricultural scientist who's a collector of historical memorabilia.**

## 'If they want to remove my picture, that's fine with me'

**By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Clarissa S. Batino**

ANNOYED by complaints, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she could not care less if the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas decided to remove her image from the new P200 bill.

"It's the (idea of the) Bangko Sentral," she protested during a luncheon with reporters. "So if they will remove my picture during the next printing because of the complaints, that's fine with me. (The idea) didn't come from me, anyway."

Besides, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura is not her appointee but that of her predecessor Joseph Estrada, the President said.

"Frankly, now that there are objections, I wish they (the Bangko Sentral) hadn't done it," she added.

BSP Deputy Governor Armando Suratos told reporters that the policy-making Monetary Board approved on April 2001 the plan to come up with the P200 bill.

He said Ms Macapagal approved the new bill and its features soon after the Monetary Board's approval.

Suratos explained that each President of the republic must approve the issuance and the design of a new coin or bill for mass circulation before minting or printing.

Commemorative coins and bills need no approval from Malacañang, he said.

The new P200 bill features the im-

IF/A21

## 'I don't think it's West Nile,' says DOH chief

**By Armand N. Nocum**

INITIAL findings by epidemiologists show that the 12 young family members of the Larrazabal clan in Ormoc City were not infected with a rare disease, health officials said yesterday.

Still, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said he was sending Consortia Lim Quizon, director of the National Epidemiological Center, to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States to have blood and spinal fluid samples taken from one of the victims tested. The samples were taken from 10-year-old Marcos Larrazabal II, who has been declared clinically dead.

The tests will establish whether the Larrazabal children suffered from the

I DON'T/A21

# Second FRONT PAGE

NASA KANYA ANG HULING PAGPASYA!

## GMA: Personality issues causing Comelec feud

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said the bitter infighting among the top officials of the Commission on Elections could be caused in part by "personality issues."

She said she would invite Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo to a meeting in her continuing attempt to reconcile the warring poll officials.

Last month she met with the four commissioners who had been appointed by jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada.

Her three appointees, including Benipayo, have been at odds with the four Estrada appointees almost from the start. ***Dona Pazzibugan***

# President has final say on Balikatan extension

**PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared that while discussions on the possible extension of the RP-US Balikatan 02-01 had yet to reach her level, she would have the last say on the matter.**

She refused to comment on Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr.'s opposition to the proposed extension of the US military presence in Mindanao, saying she had not personally heard from him about it.

"He didn't take it up with me (during the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday)," the President told reporters at a luncheon. But it is she, and not the Vice President, who will decide on it, she added.

However, she pointed out, the US proposal has not yet reached her level.

In an interview with Bombo Radyo, the President said the matter would first be discussed at the level of the Armed Forces chief of staff and then elevated to the level of the foreign secretary.

"The final decision lies with the President," she reiterated.

Ms Macapagal said Monday she favored the extension of the joint military exercise aimed at stamping out the Abu Sayyaf because the residents of Basilan had asked for it.

She said the residents wanted US military engineers to do infrastructure projects like roads and water systems.

"That is not my desire. It is the desire of the residents of Basilan," she insisted yesterday.

"What is wrong with having a Balikatan (exercise) that will build engineering (projects) for the people of Basilan?" she said.

Basilan Gov. Gerry Salappudin threw his support behind the proposed extended presence of the US military, particularly the deployment of US engineers in his province.

He said his constituents supported the proposed deployment as well because the US engineers would be able to "assist in implementing" infrastructure works in Basilan.

"The President's approval for the deployment of additional troops is a welcome development," Salappudin said in a briefing yesterday.

### Combat operation

But Wigberto Tañada, a former senator and former representative of Quezon province, said the Balikatan in Basilan was not just an exercise.

"This is a combat operation against the Abu Sayyaf," said Tañada, who, as a senator, voted against the extension of the treaty governing US bases in the country.

"The soldiers there are from the US Special Forces," he said. "The proposed extension just validates or confirms my earlier objections to the Balikatan in Mindanao."

Tañada said that if the US government really wanted to improve relations between the two countries, they should send the US engineering corps to Clark and Subic—former sites of the American bases—to clean up the toxic wastes left there.

Roland Simbulan, chair of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition and a professor at the University of the Philippines, said the proposed extension was a prelude to permanent and escalated US military involvement in the Philippines against the New People's Army, Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberation Front.

Akbayan Rep. Loreta Rosales said she opposed the entry of armed ships because this would violate Article 2, Section 8 and Article 18, Section 25 of the Constitution.

But both the Philippine and US governments have ignored this, she said.

House Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla raised the need to know "how long (the American troops) would be staying."

"We should be demanding a definite timetable," he said.

### Shallow reasons

The spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines scoffed at the reasons aired by the President for favoring the proposed extension of the US military presence in Basilan.

"It only shows how bankrupt the reason behind her and the US government's real intention is," Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER in Lucena City.

Rosal pointed out that every Filipino citizen would wish for developmental projects involving roads and water systems.

"But where are the government engineers that should be undertaking such projects?" he said. "Have they been relegated to the back seat just to accommodate the designs of (the President)? Why American soldiers?"

Rosal answered his own questions: "The real intention is to project the benevolence and generosity of the US troops before the Filipino people. Its *déjà vu*—just like the way they did during the early American colonization period."

The CPP spokesperson accused the Macapagal administration of "twisting the law to suit its scheming intentions to fool the Filipino people."

He reiterated that the NPA, the CPP's armed unit, was not set to attack the US troops participating in the Balikatan.

He stressed that what the NPA was preparing for was the internal aggression of the foreign troops.

"This preparation includes the effort to reach out to the Filipino people, to remind them of the past military atrocities of the US regime in the country," he said, adding:

"From the barrio and the urban areas, the revolutionary and the progressive forces have been conducting campaigns through various forums and mass actions to unmask the real intentions of the Americans with the connivance of the Macapagal regime."

### Warning

Rosal warned that should the US troops conduct a military offensive against the insurgents, "they would suffer severe casualties, as in Vietnam."

"Look at their present military adventure in Basilan," he said. "With their much-vaunted advanced military technology, why is the small band of the Abu Sayyaf still on the run with its hostages in tow?" ***Reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Christine Avendano in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

## US using more spy gadgets vs Abu Sayyaf

ZAMBOANGA CITY—United States troops have deployed more spy gadgets to boost the Philippine government's campaign against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

But US Navy Lt. Commander Jeff Gordon said the deployment of sonar buoys was part of the "standard operating procedures for P3 Orion spy planes in anti-submarine warfare."

The Abu Sayyaf do not have submarines but Gordon said sonar buoys could also detect sounds from boats or any sea craft.

He explained that the use of the gadgets, which are actually cylindrical tubes fitted with receivers and transmitters, were used mainly to enhance the naval blockade in the "exit and entry points of Basilan and Zamboanga."

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar has claimed that residents of Barangay Etub-etub in Sumisip had started to complain of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea after P3 Orion planes dropped what appeared to be barrels in the seas off Basilan.

Military officials earlier denied this.

### Barrels in the sea

As this developed, the military said its campaign to eliminate the Abu Sayyaf has been progressing well.

Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias, acting Southern Command spokesperson, said at least three Abu Sayyaf members were killed in a 15-minute encounter with government troops in Lampinigan island, off Barangay Curuan here on Monday.

The soldiers were checking out reports that Abu Sayyaf bandits had landed on the island.

The Special Forces unit recovered an M16 rifle, a .38 caliber revolver, a rifle grenade and 3 M16 magazines of with 15 rounds of ammunition, said Covarrubias.

He said the military has arrested at least 19 bandits, including a Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf sub-commander, since April 13.

The Abu Sayyaf sub-leader was identified as Abdulsibni Ladja, a suspect in the Sipadan hostage crisis who was arrested on April 15 at the Zamboanga port.

Ladja, a close aide of Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang, was about to leave Zamboanga on board the MV Queen Pacific, when he was arrested.

### Intense pressure

Before Ladja's arrest, Covarrubias said 18 suspected Abu Sayyaf members and sympathizers operating out of Basilan had surrendered owing to the intense pressure of the military campaign.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu told reporters that the military was able to obtain "vital information that might lead to the rescue of Martin and Gracia Burnham and Lamitan nurse Ediborah Yap" after the surrender.

He said the information taken from the suspects was still being evaluated. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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# What's wrong with gimmicks?

## *Gloria's image builder says it's just marketing*

**By Carlito Pablo**

SO what's wrong with "gimmicks?"

Dante Ang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's controversial personal publicist, has merely shrugged off criticisms that the publicity stunts he has been producing for his client were cheap and idiotic gimmicks.

"Gimmick is just another word for marketing or PR (public relations) handle," Ang said. "A handle is basically what image you want to project."

He disputed criticisms that the "Ina ng Bayan (Mother of the Nation)" television and radio plugs of the President were flops.

He claimed that they have been well-received by the masses that she wanted to reach out to.

They were so successful that Ang has been inspired to do a new "Ina ng Bayan" series despite criticisms that Ms Macapagal was aping her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, who had built his populist image by claiming to be the "Ama ng Masa (Father of the Masses)."

"Government must go down to the level of the masses and to do that we must break the walls that divide them and government," Ang said.

"We can only do that by making them see that our leader is one with them," he added.

In the two previous televised "Ina ng Bayan" plugs, Ms Macapagal talked of the difficulties in her job but vowed to continue with her pro-poor programs.

In both episodes, the President, with cameras zooming in on her face, ended with a plea for support from the people.

"I need you," she implored.

Ang explained that what he was doing was to re-cast the elitist image of the President to one with which ordinary people can identify.

The President appointed Ang to the position of "senior consultant for public relations" almost as soon as her spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, left Malacañang amid speculations that he could not abide Ang.

As of yesterday, Ang said he had yet to see his formal appointment papers.

Ang had welcomed the President's announcement of his appointment as he said this might moderate the bad impression of him as a backroom operator.

Ang has been Ms Macapagal's private publicist since 1993 and is said to be the one wielding real power in Malacañang's massive information machinery, starting from the Office of the Press Secretary to government-controlled media networks.

Asked what his functions as consultant would entail, Ang said, "basically the same, advising the President."

ANG

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS**
PASAY CITY

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the *ad interim* appointments of the following officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs:

**Eduardo P. Maglaya and Elizabeth P. Buensuceso - Chief of Mission, Class II; Alimatar M. Garangan - Foreign Service Officer, Class I**

The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in thirty (30) copies on the above appointments to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824, 834-2706, 831-1566 and 834-2713.

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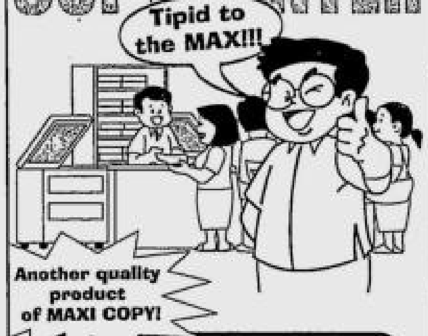

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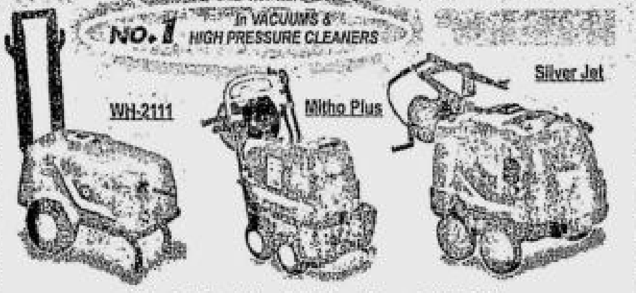

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| Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg | 5.00 | Dextromethorphan HBr Tablet 10 mg | 1.40 |
| Amoxicillin Drops | 40.00 | Dextromethorphan syrup 10 mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 44.00 |
| Amoxicillin Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 52.00 | Dicycloverine Syrup 10 mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 38.00 |
| Amoxicillin Suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 65.00 | Dicycloverine Tablet 10 mg | 1.40 |
| Ampicilin capsule 500 mg | 6.60 | Guaifenesin Syrup 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 45.00 |
| Bromhexine HCl Tablet 8 mg | 1.40 | Loperamide HCL Capsule 2 mg | 2.20 |
| Bromhexine HCl Syrup 4mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 45.00 | Mefenamic Acid Capsule 250 mg | 2.30 |
| Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg | 4.20 | Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg | 3.00 |
| Carbocisteine (SCMC) Drops 50mg/mL, 15 mL | 46.00 | Paracetamol Drops | 31.00 |
| Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 46.00 | Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 23.50 |
| Chloramphenicol Capsule 500 mg | 5.90 | Paracetamol Syrup 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL | 33.00 |
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| Co-trimoxazole Capsule (TM-80 mg, SMZ-400 mg) | 4.40 | Prednisone Tablet 5mg | 3.10 |
| Co-trimoxazole Suspension (TM-40 mg, SMZ-200 mg) 60 ml | 48.00 | Pyrazinamide Tablet 500 mg | 5.50 |
| Co-trimoxazole Tablet (TM-160 mg, SMZ-800 mg) | 5.00 | Rifampicin Capsule 300 mg | 8.00 |
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| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BACOLOD | THU | 11:00 pm | SF 14 | P4 | FRI | 6:30 pm | BREDCO |
| | SUN | 9:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | MON | 6:00 pm | BREDCO |
| CAGAYAN de ORO | WED | 11:59 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | FRI | 11:59 am | PUNTOD |
| | MON | 10:00 am | SF 14 | P4 | TUE | 7:30 pm | PUNTOD |
| | THU | 11:00 pm | SF 14 | P4 | SAT | 10:00 am | PUNTOD |
| CEBU | MON | 6:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | TUE | 6:00 pm | CIP |
| | TUE | 3:00 pm | SF 12 | P4 | WED | 11:59 am | CIP |
| | THU | 7:00 pm | SF 12 | P4 | FRI | 4:00 pm | CIP |
| | SUN | 9:00 am | SF 12 | P4 | MON | 6:00 am | CIP |
| CORON | FRI | 4:00 pm | OLOM | P4 | SAT | 6:00 am | CORON |
| COTABATO | SAT | 10:00 am | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | MON | 5:30 am | POLLOC |
| DAVAO | MON | 2:00 pm | SF 1/8 | P14 | WED | 6:00 pm | SASA |
| | SAT | 10:00 am | SF 1/8 | P14 | MON | 5:00 pm | SASA |
| DIPOLOG | FRI | 11:59 pm | OLOS | P 14 | SUN | 3:00 pm | DIP |
| DUMAGUETE | MON | 11:59 pm | OLOM | P14 | WED | 11:00 am | DGT |
| | WED | 11:59 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | FRI | 4:00 am | DGT |
| DUMAGUIT | MON | 6:00 pm | OLOL | P4 | TUE | 9:30 am | DUM |
| | WED | 2:00 pm | OLOL | P4 | THU | 5:30 am | DUM |
| | SAT | 2:00 pm | OLOL | P4 | SUN | 5:30 am | DUM |
| GEN. SANTOS | MON | 2:00 pm | SF 1/8 | P14 | WED | 8:00 am | MAKAR |
| | SAT | 10:00 am | SF 1/8 | P14 | MON | 7:00 am | MAKAR |
| ILIGAN | THU | 8:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P14 | SAT | 9:00 am | ILI |
| | SUN | 9:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | TUE | 10:00 am | ILI |
| ILOILO | MON | 10:00 am | SF 14 | P4 | TUE | 5:00 am | SNPED |
| | THU | 8:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P14 | FRI | 5:00 pm | SNPED |
| | SAT | 10:00 am | SF 1/8 | P14 | SUN | 5:00 am | SNPED |
| MASBATE | TUE | 11:00 pm | OLOS | P 14 | WED | 6:00 pm | MBT |
| NASIPIT/ BUTUAN | MON | 6:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | WED | 11:00 am | NAS |
| | THU | 11:59 pm | SF 1/8 | P14 | SAT | 9:00 am | NAS |
| OZAMIZ | THU | 8:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P14 | SAT | 1:00 pm | OZA |
| | SUN | 9:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | TUE | 2:00 pm | OZA |
| PALOMPON | TUE | 11:00 pm | OLOS | P 14 | THU | 3:00 am | PAL |
| P. PRINCESA | FRI | 4:00 pm | OLOM | P4 | SAT | 8:00 pm | PPS |
| ROXAS | MON | 6:00 pm | OLOL | P4 | TUE | 12:30 pm | CULASI |
| | WED | 2:00 pm | OLOL | P4 | THU | 8:30 am | CULASI |
| | SAT | 2:00 pm | OLOL | P4 | SUN | 8:30 am | CULASI |
| SURIGAO | MON | 6:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | WED | 4:30 am | SUR |
| | THU | 11:59pm | SF 1/8 | P14 | SAT | 3:00 am | SUR |
| TAGBILARAN | MON | 11:59 pm | OLOM | P14 | WED | 5:30 am | TAGBI |
| | FRI | 11:59 pm | OLOS | P14 | SUN | 7:00 am | TAGBI |
| ZAMBOANGA | MON | 2:00 pm | SF 1/8 | P14 | TUE | 6:00 pm | ZAMBO |
| | SAT | 10:00 am | SF 2/5/9 | P4 | SUN | 6:00 pm | ZAMBO |

### From BACOLOD

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAGAYAN | FRI | 9:00 pm | SF 14 | BREDCO | SAT | 10:00 am | PUNTOD |
| ILIGAN | MON | 8:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | BREDCO | TUE | 10:00 am | ILI |
| OZAMIZ | MON | 8:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | BREDCO | TUE | 2:00 pm | OZA |
| MANILA | WED | 3:30 pm | SF 14 | BREDCO | THU | 11:00 am | P4 |
| | SUN | 2:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | BREDCO | MON | 11:00 am | P4 |

### From CAGAYAN de ORO

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BACOLOD | TUE | 11:59 pm | SF 14 | PUNTOD | WED | 1:00 pm | BREDCO |
| DUMAGUETE | FRI | 11:59 pm | SF 2/5/9 | PUNTOD | SAT | 8:00 am | DGT |
| ILOILO | SAT | 7:00 pm | SF 14 | PUNTOD | SUN | 8:00 am | SNPED |
| MANILA | TUE | 11:59 pm | SF 14 | PUNTOD | THU | 11:00 am | P4 |
| | FRI | 11:59 pm | SF 2/5/9 | PUNTOD | SUN | 11:00 am | P4 |
| | SAT | 7:00 pm | SF 14 | PUNTOD | MON | 5:00 am | P4 |

### From CEBU

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NASIPIT | TUE | 9:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | CIP | WED | 11:00 am | NAS |
| SURIGAO | TUE | 9:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | CIP | WED | 4:30 am | SUR |
| MANILA | MON | 11:59 am | SF 12 | CIP | TUE | 9:00 am | P4 |
| | WED | 5:00 pm | SF 12 | CIP | THU | 2:00 pm | P4 |
| | THU | 6:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | CIP | FRI | 6:00 pm | P4 |
| | FRI | 8:00 pm | SF 12 | CIP | SAT | 6:00 pm | P4 |
| | SUN | 9:00 am | SF 1/8 | CIP | MON | 7:00 am | P14 |

### From CORON

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P. PRINCESA | SAT | 7:00 am | OLOM | CORON | SAT | 8:00 pm | PPS |
| MANILA | SUN | 11:00 pm | OLOM | CORON | MON | 1:00 pm | P14 |

### From COTABATO

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ILOILO | MON | 11:59 am | SF 2/5/9 | POLLOC | TUE | 2:00 pm | SNPED |
| ZAMBOANGA | MON | 11:59 am | SF 2/5/9 | POLLOC | MON | 8:30 pm | ZAMBO |
| MANILA | MON | 11:59 am | SF 2/5/9 | POLLOC | WED | 1:00 pm | P4 |

### From DAVAO

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GEN. SANTOS | MON | 11:00 pm | SF 1/8 | SASA | TUE | 7:00 am | MAKAR |
| | WED | 11:00 pm | SF 1/8 | SASA | THU | 7:00 am | MAKAR |
| ILOILO | MON | 11:00 pm | SF 1/8 | SASA | WED | 10:00 am | SNPED |
| ZAMBOANGA | WED | 11:00 pm | SF 1/8 | SASA | THU | 10:00 pm | ZAMBO |
| MANILA | MON | 11:00 pm | SF 1/8 | SASA | THU | 7:00 am | P14 |
| | WED | 11:00 pm | SF 1/8 | SASA | SAT | 4:00 am | P14 |

### From DIPOLOG

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TAGBILARAN | SUN | 11:59 pm | OLOS | DIP | MON | 6:00 am | TAGBI |
| MANILA | SUN | 11:59 pm | OLOS | DIP | TUE | 5:00 pm | P14 |

### From DUMAGUETE

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAGAYAN | FRI | 6:00 am | SF 2/5/9 | DGT | FRI | 11:59 am | PUNTOD |
| TAGBILARAN | WED | 4:00 pm | OLOM | DGT | WED | 7:00 pm | TAGBI |
| MANILA | WED | 4:00 pm | OLOM | DGT | FRI | 4:00 am | P4 |
| | SAT | 9:00 am | SF 2/5/9 | DGT | SUN | 11:00 am | P4 |

### From DUMAGUIT

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ROXAS | TUE | 11:00 am | OLOL | DUM | TUE | 12:30 pm | CULASI |
| | THU | 7:00 am | OLOL | DUM | THU | 8:30 am | CULASI |
| | SUN | 7:00 am | OLOL | DUM | SUN | 8:30 am | CULASI |
| MANILA | TUE | 7:00 pm | OLOL | DUM | WED | 9:00 am | P4 |
| | THU | 3:30 pm | OLOL | DUM | FRI | 7:00 am | P4 |
| | SUN | 3:30 pm | OLOL | DUM | MON | 7:00 am | P4 |

### From GEN. SANTOS

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DAVAO | MON | 9:00 am | SF 1/8 | MAKAR | MON | 5:00 pm | SASA |
| | WED | 10:00 am | SF 1/8 | MAKAR | WED | 6:00 pm | SASA |
| ILOILO | TUE | 10:00 am | SF 1/8 | MAKAR | WED | 10:00 am | SNPED |
| ZAMBOANGA | THU | 10:00 am | SF 1/8 | MAKAR | THU | 10:00 pm | ZAMBO |
| MANILA | TUE | 10:00 am | SF 1/8 | MAKAR | THU | 7:00 am | P14 |
| | THU | 10:00 am | SF 1/8 | MAKAR | SAT | 4:00 am | P14 |

### From ILIGAN

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BACOLOD | SAT | 10:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | ILI | SUN | 11:59 am | BREDCO |
| OZAMIZ | TUE | 11:59 am | SF 2/5/9 | ILI | TUE | 2:00 pm | OZA |
| | SAT | 11:00 am | SF 2/5/9 | ILI | SAT | 1:00 pm | OZA |
| MANILA | TUE | 11:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | ILI | THU | 5:00 am | P14 |
| | SAT | 10:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | ILI | MON | 11:00 am | P4 |

### From ILOILO

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAGAYAN | TUE | 7:00 am | SF 14 | SNPED | TUE | 7:30 pm | PUNTOD |
| DAVAO | SUN | 7:00 am | SF 1/8 | SNPED | MON | 5:00 pm | SASA |
| GEN. SANTOS | SUN | 7:00 am | SF 1/8 | SNPED | MON | 7:00 am | MAKAR |
| ILIGAN | FRI | 7:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | SNPED | SAT | 9:00 am | ILI |
| OZAMIZ | FRI | 7:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | SNPED | SAT | 1:00 pm | OZA |
| MANILA | TUE | 4:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | SNPED | WED | 1:00 pm | P4 |
| | WED | 11:59 am | SF 1/8 | SNPED | THU | 7:00 am | P14 |
| | SUN | 10:00 am | SF 14 | SNPED | MON | 5:00 am | P4 |

### From MASBATE

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PALOMPON | WED | 8:00 pm | OLOS | MBT | THU | 3:00 am | PAL |
| MANILA | THU | 4:00 pm | OLOS | MBT | FRI | 11:00 am | P14 |

### From NASIPIT/BUTUAN

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CEBU | WED | 11:59 pm | SF 2/5/9 | NAS | THU | 4:00 pm | CIP |
| | SAT | 4:00 pm | SF 1/8 | NAS | SUN | 6:00 am | CIP |
| SURIGAO | WED | 11:59 pm | SF 2/5/9 | NAS | THU | 5:00 am | SUR |
| | SAT | 4:00 pm | SF 1/8 | NAS | SAT | 8:00 pm | SUR |
| MANILA | WED | 11:59 pm | SF 2/5/9 | NAS | FRI | 6:00 pm | P4 |
| | SAT | 4:00 pm | SF 1/8 | NAS | MON | 7:00 am | P14 |

### From OZAMIZ

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BACOLOD | SAT | 6:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | OZA | SUN | 11:59 am | BREDCO |
| ILIGAN | TUE | 7:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | OZA | TUE | 9:00 pm | ILI |
| | SAT | 6:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | OZA | SAT | 8:00 pm | ILI |
| MANILA | TUE | 7:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | OZA | THU | 5:00 am | P14 |
| | SAT | 6:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | OZA | MON | 11:00 am | P4 |

### From PALOMPON

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MASBATE | THU | 7:00 am | OLOS | PAL | THU | 2:00 pm | MBT |
| MANILA | THU | 7:00 am | OLOS | PAL | FRI | 11:00 am | P14 |

### From PUERTO PRINCESA

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CORON | SUN | 9:00 am | OLOM | PPS | SUN | 10:00 pm | CORON |
| MANILA | SUN | 9:00 am | OLOM | PPS | MON | 1:00 pm | P14 |

### From ROXAS

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DUMAGUIT | TUE | 4:00 pm | OLOL | CULASI | TUE | 5:30 pm | DUM |
| | THU | 12:30 pm | OLOL | CULASI | THU | 2:00 pm | DUM |
| | SUN | 12:30 pm | OLOL | CULASI | SUN | 2:00 pm | DUM |
| MANILA | TUE | 4:00 pm | OLOL | CULASI | WED | 9:00 am | P4 |
| | THU | 12:30 pm | OLOL | CULASI | FRI | 7:00 am | P4 |
| | SUN | 12:30 pm | OLOL | CULASI | MON | 7:00 am | P4 |

### From SURIGAO

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CEBU | THU | 9:00 am | SF 2/5/9 | SUR | THU | 4:00 pm | CIP |
| | SAT | 11:00 pm | SF 1/8 | SUR | SUN | 6:00 am | CIP |
| NASIPIT | WED | 6:30 am | SF 2/5/9 | SUR | WED | 11:00 am | NAS |
| | SAT | 5:00 am | SF 1/8 | SUR | SAT | 9:00 am | NAS |
| MANILA | THU | 9:00 am | SF 2/5/9 | SUR | FRI | 6:00 pm | P4 |
| | SAT | 11:00 pm | SF 1/8 | SUR | MON | 7:00 am | P14 |

### From TAGBILARAN

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DIPOLOG | SUN | 9:00 am | OLOS | TAGBI | SUN | 3:00 pm | DIP |
| DUMAGUETE | WED | 8:00 am | OLOM | TAGBI | WED | 11:00 am | DGT |
| MANILA | MON | 10:00 am | OLOS | TAGBI | TUE | 5:00 pm | P14 |
| | WED | 11:00 pm | OLOM | TAGBI | FRI | 4:00 am | P4 |

### From ZAMBOANGA

| TO | DEPARTURE DAY | DEPARTURE TIME | DEPARTURE VESSEL | DEPARTURE PIER | ARRIVAL DAY | ARRIVAL TIME | ARRIVAL PIER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COTABATO | SUN | 9:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | ZAMBO | MON | 5:30 am | POLLOC |
| DAVAO | TUE | 8:00 pm | SF 1/8 | ZAMBO | WED | 6:00 pm | SASA |
| GEN. SANTOS | TUE | 8:00 pm | SF 1/8 | ZAMBO | WED | 8:00 am | MAKAR |
| ILOILO | MON | 11:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | ZAMBO | TUE | 2:00 pm | SNPED |
| MANILA | MON | 11:00 pm | SF 2/5/9 | ZAMBO | WED | 1:00 pm | P4 |
| | THU | 11:59 pm | SF 1/8 | ZAMBO | SAT | 4:00 am | P14 |

schedule may change without prior notice

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# What is the Filipino Veterans Equity bill?

**By Jennie Ilustre**
*PDI Washington correspondent*

WHO are qualified if the Veterans Equity bill passes?

Answer: Members of the United States Army Forces in the Far East (Usaffe); recognized guerrillas whose names appear in the Revised Reconstructed Guerrilla Roster (RRGR) being kept in the Army Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri; and New Philippine Scouts.

There has been a lot of misunderstanding about the benefits involved in the pending bill caused partly by the various bills passed by the US Congress recently. But most of these bills are for veterans with service-connected (or combat-related) ailment, and have become American citizens or permanent residents living in the US.

### These laws are:

Public Law or PL 106-169 granting reduced Supplementary Security Income (SSI) of 75 percent to returning veterans who have become US citizens;

PL 106-377, a service-connected benefit granting health care for age-related ailments, and adjusting the disability compensation benefit to make it equal to what American WWII veterans are getting. That is, the full rate, no longer at the rate of one dollar for Americans and 50 cents (or half) to Filipino and Fil-American veterans.

Section 331 and 332 of PL 106-419 (another service-connected only benefit), making veterans eligible for burial in a national cemetery, and granting burial benefits of $300 to those residing in the US, and half of that to service-connected Filipinos living in the Philippines.

### 'Fixers'

Veterans in the Philippines mistakenly think that since Congress has passed many bills, that one of them is the Equity Bill. Many "fixers" encourage this, and even spread this rumor for their financial gain.

"Fixers" wrongly claim the US Congress has passed this bill, and that it would grant veterans the ridiculous amount of $2,500 monthly. The fact is, the Equity Bill has not yet been approved by the US Congress. It has just been re-filed in the 107th US Congress on Feb. 7, 2001.

Another fact: If and when the current Equity Bill is passed, it will apply to all surviving Filipino WWII veterans—however, there is an income cap or limit.

Current US law places a required maximum annual income from all sources. Those who have more than the limit or cap of almost $9,000 (or its peso equivalent in the Philippines) are not entitled to the pension under the proposed bill. That is, well-to-do or rich veterans are not entitled to benefits under the Equity Bill.

"Fixers" in the Philippines have been circulating fake documents purporting to show the Equity-based bill has been approved by the US Congress.

They tell Philippine-based veterans they can expedite the processing of the benefits, for a fee. The fee is as high as P25,000 per veteran. Most of those victimized live in the province, as what happened last year in Nueva Ecija.

Last year, the Philippines' Office of Veterans Affairs based in Washington D.C. received queries from veterans in Philippine provinces regarding their benefits under the Equity Bill.

### Fake bill

The veterans enclosed a copy of the bill, which they did not know was fake. Also, a contract (also fake) with their signature giving the "fixers" permission to process their application papers. But the contract does not mention the fee the veterans have paid up front to the "fixers."

In the interest of public service, here are the questions and answers to set the record straight on the Equity bill.

1. What is H.R. 491, The Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2001? Better known as the Equity Bill, it aims to amend a current US law (Section 107, Title 38 of the US Code, or "The Rescission Act of 1946"). It seeks to grant recognition, for purposes of pension and health benefits, to surviving Filipino WWII veterans in the Philippines and in the US. Section 107(a) covers United States Army Forces in the Far East or (Usaffe, and recognized guerrillas) and Section 107(b) applies to New Philippine Scouts.

Section 107 states that service of Filipino WWII veterans who served in the army forces of the US "shall not be deemed to be or to have been service in the military or naval forces of the United States or components thereof for the purposes of any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits . . ." except "on account of service-connected disability or death."

2. Who are the Filipino WWII veterans covered under the proposed Equity Bill?

a. Members of the Usaffe inducted under the Military Order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on July 26, 1941, and recognized guerrillas whose names appear in the Revised Reconstructed Guerrilla Roster (RRGR) of June 30, 1948, which is kept in the Army Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

b. Those inducted in the New Philippine Scouts under Section 14 of Public Law 190, passed by the 79th US Congress on Oct. 6, 1945.

3. What are the income limitations under the Equity Bill?

A US law sets an annual income of less than $9,000 (or the peso equivalent) as cap. This limit, or cap, covers their home from all sources, including income of the spouse, other veterans benefits received such as the pension from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office or PVAO and property.

### Unmarried or widowed

Example: Take an unmarried or widowed veteran who is currently receiving a service-connected disability of 10 percent ($101) and old age pension from the PVAO in the amount of P4,500.

Under the proposed Equity Bill, the total amount of these income sources will be deducted from the US cap of limit of about $9,000 (or peso equivalent).

A married veteran has a bigger limit or cap. But his spouse and minor children are entitled to an allowance.

4. Is a veteran now receiving disability compensation (that is, service-connected benefit) qualified to receive the pension benefit (nonservice-connected benefit) under the proposed Equity Bill?

Yes. He can choose the benefit with the bigger amount. For example, take a veteran currently receiving a 10-percent disability compensation of $98 a month. He can choose to receive the pension benefit under the Equity Bill if it passes, because the pension will be more than the $98 he is currently receiving.

5. How much is the pension under the proposed Equity Bill?

The bill does not mention the amount for those residing in the Philippines or in the United States. This could be decided later in the conference committee reconciling the House and Senate versions of the bill. Under current US law, pension is set at about $750 a month for American World War II veterans. This is not necessarily the amount that Filipino veterans in the Philippines will receive under the proposed Equity Bill.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Thursday, April 18, 2002**
**3rd Week of Easter**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st Reading:** | **Acts 8:26-40** |
| **Gospel:** | **Jn 6:44-51** |

Jesus said to the crowd, "No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise him up on the last day. It has been written in the Prophets: *They shall all be taught by God. So whoever listens and learns from the Father comes to me.*

For no one has seen the Father except the One who comes from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life. Though your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, they died. But here you have the *bread which comes from heaven* so that you may eat of it and not die.

I am the living *bread which has come from heaven;* whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

**Commentary**

*When Christ is welcomed with joy, it is because God was there already, long before the evangelizer arrived. If the seed grows, it is because the ground was ready. John's community asked themselves, "Why do some of our people find faith in Jesus, while others seem unwilling or unable?" We do not know why some are "drawn by the Father" to relationship with the risen Jesus, receiving him as the bread of life, while others walk through life on another road. It is God who opens hearts to Christ, God who makes the harvest grow. We are simply the laborers. Many have not found faith in Jesus. Nevertheless, God embraces all creation, and took flesh in Jesus for the life of the whole world, as today's gospel says. The wind blows where it wills, and only God knows all the ways of the Spirit.*

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PART 2: PPA-NAPOCOR UNBUNDLING POWER RATE HIKE

We met with **President Edgardo Del Fonso** of the Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) and **President Roland Quilala** of Napocor. PSALM was created under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act to take over the assets, contracts, liabilities, and the privatization of Napocor. After privatization, Napocor will handle only the operation and maintenance of its power plants.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING:

1. The power rate increase of Napocor, as a result of unbundling is P 0.17 per kilowatt hour (KWH) to meet a return on rate base (RORB) of 12 percent on the transmission lines and a 5.1 percent RORB on the NPC-owned power generating units.
2. PSALM estimated the universal charge **(stranded costs or losses)** from the eligible IPPs, which must be passed on to all users of electricity, to be US$ 3.7 billion or P 190 billion. This is equivalent to P 0.40 per KWH.
3. The stranded cost or losses from non-eligible IPPs (defined under RA 9163) and **not** subject to recovery under the Universal Charge and therefore to be absorbed by PSALM are estimated to be US$ 2.3 billion or P 118 billion.

SUMMARY OF COST TO ALL ELECTRICITY USERS

The estimated power rate increase for residential users is P 0.27 per KWH, consisting of a net P 0.10 Universal Charge (P 0.40 Universal Charge less P 0.30 power reduction under the Power Act) plus P 0.17 per KWH resulting from the unbundling power rate petition of Napocor.

For commercial and industrial users, the increase is P 0.57 per KWH consisting of P 0.40 Universal Charge and P 0.17 per KWH Napocor charge.

PLAN OF ACTION

So the public can understand the rationale behind the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA), which currently constitutes half of the electricity bill, we have asked Napocor and PSALM to furnish us the following information:

1. The increase of the PPA annually, from 1993 from the basic rate of P 1.8743 per KWH.
2. A breakdown of the cost to operate of each power plant, whether owned by Napocor or by an IPP, at its rated capacity.

Finally, we reiterate our earlier position that the unbundling of the revised power rates should start with Napocor BEFORE the ERC can consider petitions for rate unbundling or increases from the 139 utility companies (including MERALCO) nationwide.

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**PROSECUTORS** huddle at the Sandiganbayan on the day bank executive Manuel Curato (right) testified he saw former President Estrada sign documents as Jose Velarde. ERNIE SARMIENTO

### 'ESTRADA IS VELARDE'

# Impeach witness replays testimony vs Erap

**By Volt Contreras**

IT might have been anti-climactic considering that ex-President Joseph Estrada has admitted on television signing the name "Jose Velarde" to bank documents, but bank executive Manuel Curato's testimony yesterday at the Sandiganbayan was no less riveting.

Curato, first vice president and legal division chief of Equitable-PCIBank, reprised his testimony given at Estrada's Senate impeachment trial of how the ousted leader had signed the alias to documents authorizing a loan to a businessman-friend in February 2000.

This time, Curato's testimony went smoothly and was practically uninterrupted as he told the Sandiganbayan that he was "a seat away" when Estrada signed the name Jose Velarde 15 times in "five to 10 minutes" on Feb. 4, 2000 in Malacañang.

Curato said Estrada signed five sets of documents authorizing the bank to draw P500 million from an existing current and savings account and lend it to Wellex Inc., which was owned by Estrada friend William Gatchalian.

The signing was held at the Palace guesthouse in an early afternoon meeting that Curato said had been arranged by lawyer Fernando Chua who, according to Curato, referred to Estrada as his "boss."

Prosecutors in Estrada's plunder trial presented Curato as their first major witness to support the charge that the deposed president had hidden an Equitable-PCIBank account containing some P3.2 billion in questionably obtained wealth under the name "Jose Velarde."

The account contained the "commissions, shares, gifts, kickbacks and percentages" amassed by Estrada during his term, the prosecutors alleged.

Overall, the plunder case charges Estrada with illegally enriching himself in the amount of P4.1 billion in two years since becoming president.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, who conducted the direct examination of Curato yesterday, conceded to reporters later that the bank lawyer merely "replayed" what he had told the impeachment court.

But Marcelo hinted at a "little surprise" when Curato's colleague, former Equitable-PCIBank trust director Clarissa Ocampo, takes the stand in one to two weeks.

In stark contrast to Curato's testimony at the impeachment trial, his 45-minute-narrative before the anti-graft court went without rapid objections from Estrada's defense team, now composed of court-appointed lawyers.

Curato said Estrada signed as "Velarde" on the five sets of documents, all of which, except for the authorization to debit or credit, did not have the name "Jose Velarde" printed on them when Estrada signed them.

When the court asked why this was so, Curato said the "authorization" which came printed with the name "Jose Velarde" was the only document he and Ocampo "did not prepare" the night before after Chua had met with them.

Curato's testimony did not touch on how that "authorization" ended up being presented to Estrada that day, considering it was not among the documents they had brought to Malacañang.

But he did recall that when he and Ocampo arrived at Malacañang for the signing, Chua welcomed them and was able to have a few minutes alone with Ocampo when he (Curato) went to the wash room.

"How that document cropped up could perhaps be explained by Ocampo later," Marcelo told reporters after the hearing.

Consistent with his and Ocampo's earlier testimonies, Curato said the signing was also witnessed by Chua and then Malacañang chief of staff Aprodicio Laquian.

Chua, he said, arranged for the signing after meeting him (Curato) and Ocampo the night before at the birthday party of Equitable-PCIBank chair George Go.

Chua, who personally knows Curato, "gatecrashed" the party "because Malacañang had been trying to get in touch with Go but he wouldn't return the calls."

"Gatchalian wanted to borrow money and someone from Malacañang was willing to lend it but they needed intermediaries," Curato recalled Chua as saying.

Curato then invited Chua to discuss the matter further at his (Curato's) office together with Ocampo, who was then head of the bank's Trust Banking Group.

Curato and Ocampo started preparing the necessary documents that very night, after Chua left them.

Initially, he said, the plan was to bring the documents to Malacañang that same night, but Chua moved this to 11 a.m. the following day, Feb. 4, a Friday.

The next morning, Gatchalian and a woman companion met with Curato at the latter's office.

As previously agreed upon by Curato and Gatchalian's lawyer, Arturo Punzalan, in phone calls made the night before, Gatchalian came to hand over his certificates of stock in Waterfront Inc. that would serve as "collateral" for the loan.

Minutes after Gathalian and his companion left Curato's office, Ocampo arrived and the two of them left for the Palace, Curato said.

He said Estrada was generally silent during the whole process and merely nodded each time Ocampo presented a document and made a brief explanation.

Carato said he and Ocampo had no idea Estrada was the one who would be signing the documents until the President showed up at the table.

"At the time we were preparing the documents, we did not know who would be signing them because there was only a reference to Malacañang and the signing that would be private and confidential," he said.

# Don't make trouble, Erap backers warned

**By Carlito Pablo**
**and Martin P. Marfil**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned supporters of her deposed predecessor, Joseph Estrada, against stirring up trouble at protests planned to mark the first anniversary of his arrest.

Estrada followers are planning street protests tomorrow, his 65th birthday, as well as on May 1, a year after the bloody siege of Malacañang by Estrada partisans that claimed four lives.

The ousted president enters his second year in detention next week on trial for allegedly plundering a fortune of P200 million during his 30-month rule—a crime theoretically punishable by death.

A bloodless and military-backed popular revolt ended his rule on Jan. 20, 2001, and he was arrested on April 25 of that year.

"I want to remind the supporters of the former president that last year we allowed them to stage five days of street protests," Ms Macapagal said in a radio interview.

"For as long as these remained peaceful nobody interfered with them. But once they resorted to force they were dealt with firmly by our law enforcers. I ask them now to keep them peaceful if they want to stage protests," the President said.

Police said 6,000 riot police would be on duty to maintain order in the streets during the planned series of demonstrations, which are to start tomorrow, Estrada's 65th birthday, and culminate on May 1.

Estrada, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said, cannot hope to return to power using the recent political upheaval in Venezuela as a model.

### No comparison

"There is no point of comparison," Golez said. "The Philippine and Venezuelan situations are two different things."

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was ousted in a military coup on March 12 but was reinstated two days later with the backing of supporters from the slums and provinces and of a faction of the military which remained loyal to him.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon has warned of unrest in the military should the President choose wrong in appointing the next Armed Forces chief of staff.

Biazon said the military could make a move to re-install Estrada along the lines of the Venezuelan experience.

Golez explained that unlike in Venezuela, the Armed Forces was solid in its withdrawal of support from Estrada in January 2001 and that President Macapagal-Arroyo enjoyed the full support of the military.

"The Venezuelan military was split," Golez said. "In our case, both the military and police were very solid."

Golez also said that while there were massive demonstrations against Chavez immediately before his ouster, he also enjoyed support from the people.

"He had his own 'people power' while Estrada is suffering from low ratings as shown in recent surveys," Golez said.

"Estrada's credibility before the people is at its rock bottom," Golez said.

He also pointed out that the Venezuelan power grabbers did not follow the constitutional succession, choosing not to install the country's vice president as Chavez's successor.

### Constitutional lines

The rebellion that ousted Estrada, on the other hand, followed constitutional lines as then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo was installed as President, he said.

"What they did in Venezuela was that they installed a businessman who was not in the line of succession," Golez said. "Worse, the successor dissolved the Venezuelan National Assembly, thereby angering hundreds of politicians."

Ms Macapagal did not interfere with the workings of Congress and other institutions of government, he said.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo immediately consolidated government and this cannot be said of interim president installed in the place of Chavez," Golez said.***With a report from AFP***

# Cardinal denies meeting SC justices

**By Armand N. Nocum**

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin denied yesterday meeting with justices of the Supreme Court two days before they were to vote on the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law, as alleged by former President Joseph Estrada.

Speaking through Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas, his spokesperson, Sin said: "There is absolutely no truth to the allegation of Joseph Estrada that some Supreme Court justices met with (me) two days before the vote on the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law.

"Neither was there a breakfast meeting or a shepherding of other SC justices to seek spiritual guidance on how to decide the issue of the Anti-Plunder Law at any time or place," Sin said in the statement released yesterday.

Villegas said Sin issued the statement, albeit belatedly, lest Estrada's "lies, when repeated over and over, begin to sound like the truth."

He said Estrada's allegation that the justices had met with Sin was a "futile attempt to cast doubt on the independence of the Supreme Court in settling legal controversies involving Estrada."

"To even imply that members of the Supreme Court would actually seek guidance from the cardinal over a complex legal matter within their province is underestimating their basic common sense," Villegas said.

"The former chief executive also overestimates the cardinal's influence over members of the Supreme Court which traditionally is the most unapproachable, reserved and independent government institution," Villegas said.

Although the Church upholds the separation of Church and State, Villegas said it does not "subscribe to the view that the Church is precluded from making its position known on issues" because "separation does not mean silence or apathy where it concerns governance or the behavior of its leaders.

"It is truly unfortunate that there are still people who, because of personal interest or political agenda, trivialize the Church's concern for the nation's well-being by passing it off as mere meddling," Villegas said.

Estrada's former defense team had questioned the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law with which their client is charged for allegedly amassing more than P50 million in unexplained wealth.

The justices ruled that the law was legal, thus paving the way for Estrada's plunder trial, which is being heard by the Sandiganbayan.

# Local tourism leaders back 'holiday economics'

**By Jerome Aning**

TOURISM industry leaders yesterday released the latest statistics to back up the government's new policy of extending holidays to promote domestic tourism.

In a press conference at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Philippine Tour Operators Association president Perry Alegre said the national average hotel and resort occupancy rates increased more than one half during the extended holidays on All Saints' Day, Christmas, Holy Week and Araw ng Kagitingan.

The occupancy rates increased by 67, 54, 62 and 61 percent, respectively.

The Philtoa also revealed that WOW Philippines packages advertising in local newspapers have generated 1,000 to 1,500 inquiries a day with a 12 to 15 percent materialization because of heightened awareness from the high and middle-income travelers.

Alejandra Clemente, president of the Federation of Travel Industries of the Philippines, said President Arroyo's "holiday economics" has led to "a better appreciation of travel within the Philippines among the Filipinos."

"There is a good acceptance from the general public about the value of domestic tourism both from the travelers' side and service-providers' side," she said.

Clemente said they have observed that those who previously only travelled abroad are now traveling internally.

Alegre, Clemente, Robert Joseph Lim of the Network of Independent Travel Agencies, Anette Feliciano of the Travel Agencies Association and Rose Libongco of the Hotel Sales and Marketing Association also recommended that the transfer of the holidays to Mondays or Fridays be fixed by national legislation.

In Australia, England and United States many holidays fall on a Monday. China and Japan are also moving to support "holiday economics."

# *Malvar as president? Let Congress decide*

BATANGAS CITY—President Macapagal—Arroyo is leaving it up to Congress to decide whether to declare Gen. Miguel Malvar as the second President of the Philippines.

The President, who was at the commemorative ceremonies here to mark the end of the Filipino-American war 100 years ago on Tuesday, said she had sought the opinion of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, himself a Batangueño, and this was what he advised.

Though she cited her long association with Malvar's descendants from Batangas, Ms Macapagal said that it was not in her power to declare their distinguished ancestor as the second president of the country.

She said one of the Malvar relatives was her language teacher, another a geography instructor, and still another was her history teacher at the Assumption.

Her dentist is also a Malvar from Batangas.

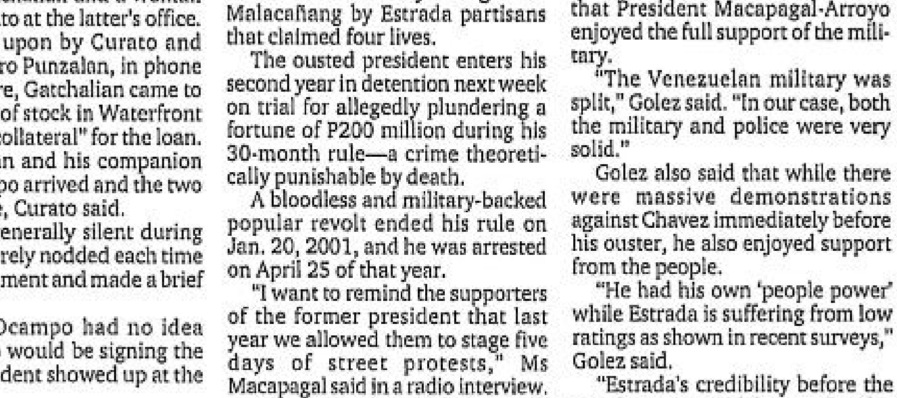
On April 3, the members of the Batangas provincial council approved a resolution asking Ms Macapagal to declare the Batangueño general as the second Philippine president.

Malvar is cited in history texts as the last Filipino general to surrender to the Americans on April 16, 1902, which marked the close of the Philippine-American War and ended hostilities between the Philippines and the United States.

Malvar took over the revolutionary government after Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the first President of the Republic, was captured the previous March and exiled to Hong Kong by the Americans.

This was attested to by the Philippine Revolutionary Junta in Hong Kong that was then headed by Galicano Apacible.

Historian Teodoro Agoncillo has also stated that Malvar "took over the leadership of the Filipino government, or what remained of it, and harassed the Americans by his guerrilla tactics." ***Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



**PRESIDENT** Macapagal shares a light moment with Isabel Malvar-Villegas, 92, the only surviving daughter of Gen. Miguel Malvar.

## TOO MANY GENERALS

# Gloria, PNP brass defend promotions

**By TJ Burgonio**

POLICE officials yesterday defended the promotion of police generals Edgardo Aglipay, Reynaldo Velasco and Clyde Fernandez to three-star rank, saying this did not violate Philippine National Police laws.

While there is a PNP rule that states that there should only be three three-star generals in the organization at a given time, this does not apply in the case of the three officials who were promoted based on merit, said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, PNP spokesperson.

"This was an exception (to the rule). This (promotion) was in accordance with the Civil Service Commission policy of meritocracy, meaning by virtue of merit," Espina said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo did her own share of defending the promotions, saying it was within her legal powers to appoint six three-star PNP generals.

She challenged those questioning her appointment of six PNP deputy director generals to go to court instead.

"Of those who didn't get promoted got jealous," she said.

### Not frightened

"In the meantime I have to run a government and make decisions. I can not be frightened by *baka ganito, baka gano'n*," she went on.

She said under the Civil Service Code, the President can create an item in any civilian government agency by mere appointment.

She said the PNP is a civilian agency "and there is no law that says how many can be three-star general."

She said the law limits the number of three-star generals only in the Armed Forces.

"If they see there is a violation, then they file a case. I'll be happy to note it. I'll obey the court," the President said.

Espina said the "spot promotions" of Aglipay, Velasco and Fernandez were not regular but special, noting that they had played "pivotal roles" in quelling the violence during Edsa 2 and the May 1 siege of Malacañang last year.

"They were promoted for their sterling performance during those two occasions," said Espina, referring to the popular revolt that ousted President Joseph Estrada and the attack on Malacañang by his supporters, respectively.

Aglipay, head of the National Capital Region Police Office; Velasco, director for comptrollership, and Fernandez, chief of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crimes, were promoted to the rank of deputy director general.

Aglipay and Velasco are members of Philippine Military Academy Class '71 while Fernandez belongs to Class '70.

### A first in PNP

With their promotions, there are now six deputy directors general, including Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, Rex Piad of the directorial staff, and Edgar Galvante of the directorate for operations.

This is a first in the 11-year-old national police.

Espina dismissed talk the promotions had demoralized the junior police officers. "On the contrary, it in fact added to their morale—if you are deserving, you will be promoted," he said.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said earlier the promotion of the three officials was in preparation for the retirement in September this year of Piad and Galvante.

Espina also defended the promotion of six aides of PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza against objections raised by a shadowy group calling itself "The Aggrieved Policemen Who Always Defend the Constitution."

"They (aides) deserved to be promoted because they secured Malacañang at the height of the May 1 rebellion," Espina said.

He said the protesting group, which circulated a paper questioning the promotion of Mendoza's escorts and laid claim to being the defenders of Malacañang during last year's Labor Day attack, was non-existent.

Mendoza's aides who were promoted were Chief Inspectors Camilo Cascolan and Mario Ramos; Senior Inspectors John Atela and Eduardo Chico Jr., senior police officer 4 Alejandro Andrade and police officer 4 Benjamin Liggayu.

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| ILOILO | to | Manila | 3,028 | 2,698 | 2,198 |
| KALIBO | to | Manila | 3,148 | 2,818 | 2,198 |
| ROXAS | to | Manila | 2,588 | 2,248 | 1,998 |
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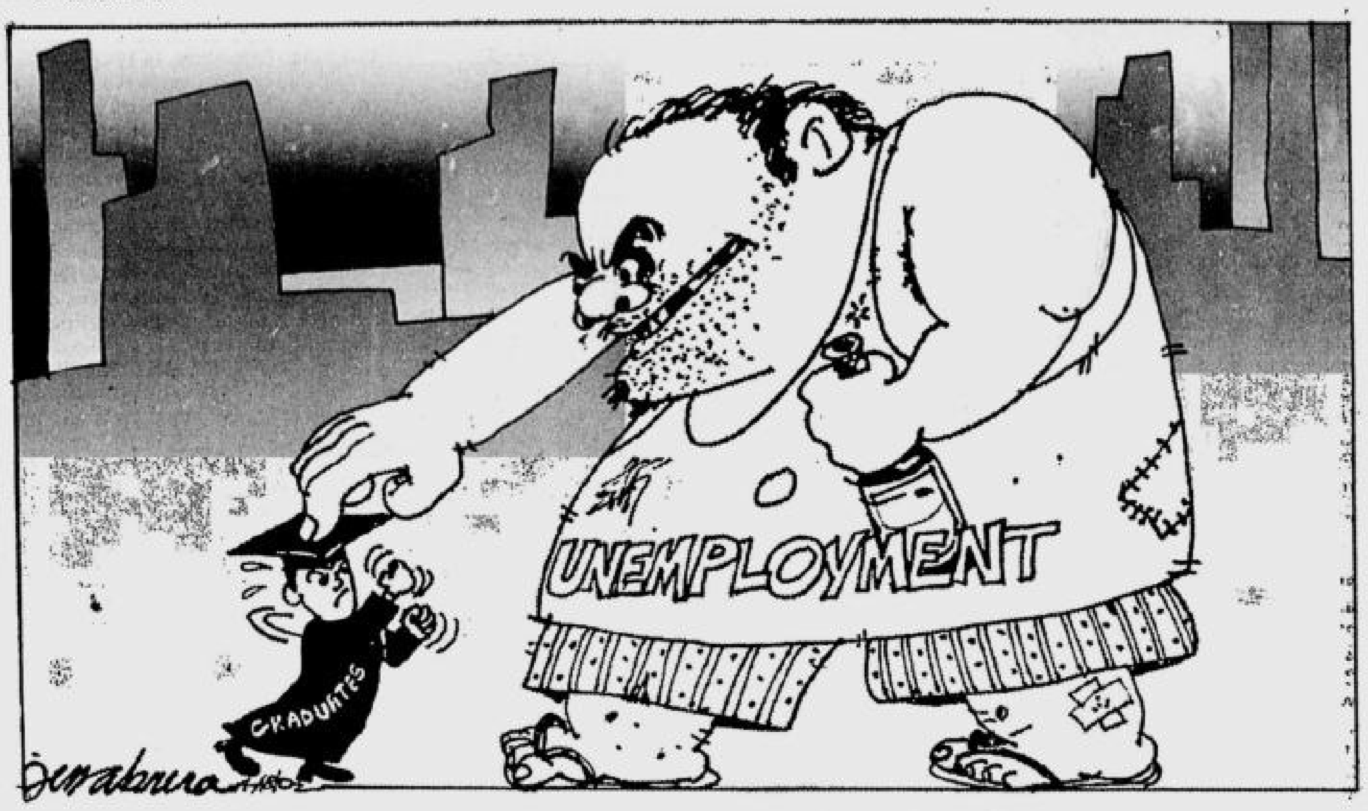

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Thus, the auction market provides capital at cheaper costs to contractors, farmers and fishermen and start-up businesses. Through this, they are able to pass on the transportation costs to consumers at affordable prices.

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Besides, the auctioneers said, "we are not cannibalizing the share of the brand-new sector because we cater to the middle-class. We sell to people whose budgets are very limited."

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Someone suggested that the law punish users as well as pushers. If piracy thrives, she said, it is also because the public patronizes them. If people will not buy pirated CDs, people will not sell them.

All this is very nice, except for one thing. Which is that if such a law passes, and it is enforced rigorously, there will be precious few legislators, or public officials generally, who will remain at large. Well, maybe that will be the good effect of that law, imprisoning public officials for being a party to piracy. I do not mean that they will be found with bootlegged copies of X-rated movies, though I would not be surprised if they were. Or that they will be found with bootlegged copies of their favorite singers, local or foreign, though I would not be surprised too if they were.

I mean that they will be found with **other** pirated stuff. If such a law should pass, I propose that the first thing the Videogram Regulatory Board, or any other board of inspectors, do is to inspect the computers in Sotto's office, and those of the other senators (and congressmen) who signed the bill, to see if they are using the originals of the following programs: any version of Windows (95, 98, 2000, Millennium Edition, XP), any word processing program, particularly Microsoft Word, other Microsoft products such as Excel and Powerpoint, any of the Adobe products, particularly Photoshop and so on. Indeed, I propose that the board of inspectors inspect the computers in Malacañang and other executive and judicial (home of the people who should be as blameless as Caesar's wife) offices to see if they are carrying contraband.

It would be good to find out if the Powerpoint presentations in official Cabinet meetings were made from less than impeccable software sources. It would be good to find out if the computers being used by the judges to pen their decisions are booted by less than legally obtained operating systems. Indeed, it would be good to find out if the position papers, manifestos and the bill itself that is pending in Congress on anti-piracy were written through pirated software.

The point is simple: Why run only after the pirates of entertainment products and not the pirates of all intellectual products?

But of course you do this, you insist that all Windows and other software be "legally" obtained from Bill Gates, and you ground this country to a halt. Each Windows program costs hundreds of dollars. The implications for education alone are staggering. You demand that schools, public or private, use only licensed computer products and you increase tuition by astronomical amounts. Are the entertainers themselves, who call for an end to "illicit copying," prepared to pay them?

Clearly, the problem is far more complex than can be solved by knee-jerk reactions. You have an anti-piracy law, you have to be very clear about its justification and scope of application.

I am not unsympathetic to the cause of local artists who have been victimized by pirated stuff, as I've said repeatedly. I agree that we should protect them, which is what other countries do. But that means invoking national interest rather than any universal moral, or quasi-moral, principle. I myself feel Filipino movies should be protected from pirates, for the simple reason that they are already reasonably priced. We have one of the lowest prices for movies in the world—P50 or so for Metro Manila, and P30 or so for double features in the provinces. I personally cannot understand why anyone would want to buy a horrible pirated version of a movie, which sounds worse than the original Betamax tapes, in lieu of watching it in a movie house.

I do not feel the same way about music CDs. It is sheer folly and a monstrous injustice to the consumer to sell a music CD for more than P400 when its cost of production is 10 times less. Why should I want to subsidize the existence of music industry moguls whose existence has clearly become superfluous in the age of digital technology? Digital technology has made it possible for musicians to go directly to their audiences without the middleman, who is the record executive. You cannot turn back the hands of time with laws. We keep laughing at the Erap joke (which used to be a joke about Ramon Magsaysay) that says he wanted to repeal the law of supply and demand at one point. That is what the anti-piracy campaign, as currently conceived, is trying to do: repeal the law of supply and demand. And for some reason, nobody seems to be laughing.

Even if such an anti-piracy bill, or law, manages to frighten pushers and users of pirated pop music to cease and desist from their activities, how will that help Filipino music? You think consumers will now go back to buying the "legal" stuff at prices they know to be a rip-off? All we'll have in fact, if it at all succeeds, are record bars whose shelves runneth over with unsold stock. And a music industry filled with musicians who can't get their music across to the public.

Meanwhile, the senators and congressmen, who have the means to travel to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong, will always be able to obtain the cheap stuff there, free from the prying eyes of people like them.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
*Founding Chairman*

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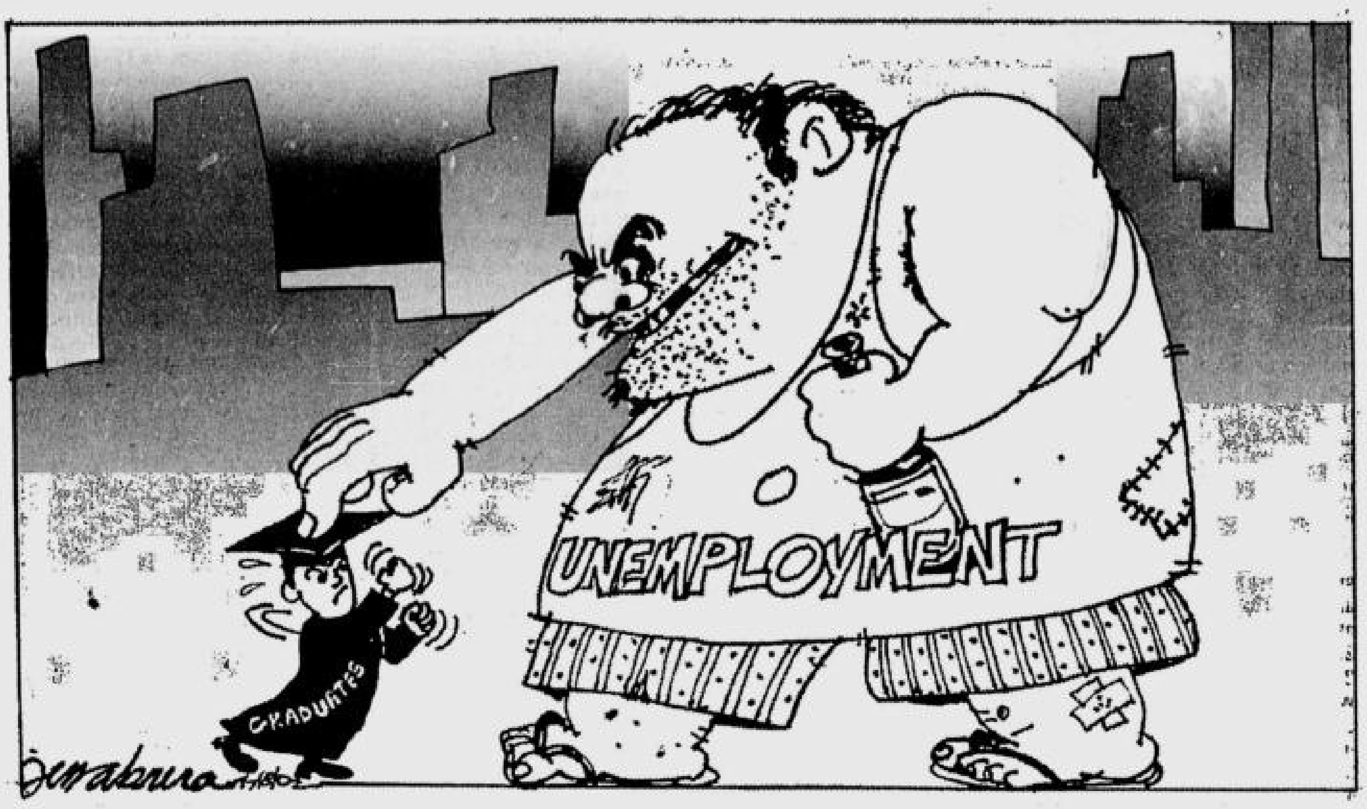

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Someone suggested that the law punish users as well as pushers. If piracy thrives, she said, it is also because the public patronizes them. If people will not buy pirated CDs, people will not sell them.

All this is very nice, except for one thing. Which is that if such a law passes, and it is enforced rigorously, there will be precious few legislators, or public officials generally, who will remain at large. Well, maybe that will be the good effect of that law, imprisoning public officials for being a party to piracy. I do not mean that they will be found with bootlegged copies of X-rated movies, though I would not be surprised if they were. Or that they will be found with bootlegged copies of their favorite singers, local or foreign, though I would not be surprised too if they were.

I mean that they will be found with **other** pirated stuff. If such a law should pass, I propose that the first thing the Videogram Regulatory Board, or any other board of inspectors, do is to inspect the computers in Sotto's office, and those of the other senators (and congressmen) who signed the bill, to see if they are using the originals of the following programs: any version of Windows (95, 98, 2000, Millennium Edition, XP), any word processing program, particularly Microsoft Word, other Microsoft products such as Excel and Powerpoint, any of the Adobe products, particularly Photoshop and so on. Indeed, I propose that the board of inspectors inspect the computers in Malacañang and other executive and judicial (home of the people who should be as blameless as Caesar's wife) offices to see if they are carrying contraband.

It would be good to find out if the Powerpoint presentations in official Cabinet meetings were made from less than impeccable software sources. It would be good to find out if the computers being used by the judges to pen their decisions are booted by less than legally obtained operating systems. Indeed, it would be good to find out if the position papers, manifestos and the bill itself that is pending in Congress on anti-piracy were written through pirated software.

The point is simple: Why run only after the pirates of entertainment products and not the pirates of all intellectual products?

But of course you do this, you insist that all Windows and other software be "legally" obtained from Bill Gates, and you ground this country to a halt. Each Windows program costs hundreds of dollars. The implications for education alone are staggering. You demand that schools, public or private, use only licensed computer products and you increase tuition by astronomical amounts. Are the entertainers themselves, who call for an end to "illicit copying," prepared to pay them?

Clearly, the problem is far more complex than can be solved by knee-jerk reactions. You have an anti-piracy law, you have to be very clear about its justification and scope of application.

I am not unsympathetic to the cause of local artists who have been victimized by pirated stuff, as I've said repeatedly. I agree that we should protect them, which is what other countries do. But that means invoking national interest rather than any universal moral, or quasi-moral, principle. I myself feel Filipino movies should be protected from pirates, for the simple reason that they are already reasonably priced. We have one of the lowest prices for movies in the world—P50 or so for Metro Manila, and P30 or so for double features in the provinces. I personally cannot understand why anyone would want to buy a horrible pirated version of a movie, which sounds worse than the original Betamax tapes, in lieu of watching it in a movie house.

I do not feel the same way about music CDs. It is sheer folly and a monstrous injustice to the consumer to sell a music CD for more than P400 when its cost of production is 10 times less. Why should I want to subsidize the existence of music industry moguls whose existence has clearly become superfluous in the age of digital technology? Digital technology has made it possible for musicians to go directly to their audiences without the middleman, who is the record executive. You cannot turn back the hands of time with laws. We keep laughing at the Erap joke (which used to be a joke about Ramon Magsaysay) that says he wanted to repeal the law of supply and demand at one point. That is what the anti-piracy campaign, as currently conceived, is trying to do: repeal the law of supply and demand. And for some reason, nobody seems to be laughing.

Even if such an anti-piracy bill, or law, manages to frighten pushers and users of pirated pop music to cease and desist from their activities, how will that help Filipino music? You think consumers will now go back to buying the "legal" stuff at prices they know to be a rip-off? All we'll have in fact, if it at all succeeds, are record bars whose shelves runneth over with unsold stock. And a music industry filled with musicians who can't get their music across to the public.

Meanwhile, the senators and congressmen, who have the means to travel to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong, will always be able to obtain the cheap stuff there, free from the prying eyes of people like them.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

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# RP Church in its springtime

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

LAST Monday, April 8, the Carmelites of the Monastery of St. Therese on Gilmore Street, Quezon City, had an emotional send-off for five sisters from the Carmel Monastery of Jaro, Iloilo, who were leaving the following day for Capetown, South Africa. The five nuns had volunteered to take up the challenge of the archbishop in South Africa for the Pinays to take over the Capetown convent.

That convent has seven European nuns, who are aging and sickly, and only one African nun. The Church authorities were alarmed that there were no new vocations, doubtless because that country's long-standing apartheid policy had affected the mission among the natives. It was thought that the Filipino nuns with their *morena* skin and winning ways would be a welcome cross between the blacks and the whites, and that the natives would be more at home with them. The Capetown sisters themselves wrote the Association of Philippine Carmels, headed by Sr. May Catherine of Carmel Bacolod, to invite the Filipinas to come and expressed their willingness to submit to the Pinays' leadership in every aspects of their convent life.

* * *

**Upon receipt of the request, the Carmelite superior-general, Fr. Camilo Maccise, OCD, asked if the Philippine Association could send at least four sisters. The latter sounded out the 25 nuns of Jaro Carmel, led by Mother Mary Belen. Not surprisingly, many volunteered. Why Jaro? For one thing, the African mission coincides with the celebration of the golden jubilee of the Archdiocese of Jaro, and Archbishop Angel Lagdameo wanted it to be his archdiocese's gift to the Church.**

**It is also history repeating itself. Back in 1923, French nuns led by Mother Theresa of Jesus, fondly called "Ma Mere," left their convent in Hue, Vietnam, at the request of Jaro Bishop James McCloskey, to found the Jaro Carmel, the first for the order here. Earlier, Ma Mere wanted to establish a Carmel convent in Saigon, but the bishop there died and nothing came of that dream. Obviously, God had his plans for the Philippines, for the Jaro convent soon became the fountainhead for other missions, including those in Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and Davao. In 1926, Ma Mere went to Manila and set up a convent in Singalong, before establishing to its permanent home on Gilmore.**

**An interesting historical footnote is that the Carmel convent in Hue was founded by French nuns who came from the convent in Lisieux, France, where St. Therese of the Child Jesus was one of the sisters. The saint herself wanted to go to Hue, but God had other plans for her. Therese never left her convent where she died very young. But she offered her life and sufferings for the missions overseas. The Church has declared her the patroness of the missions.**

* * *

At the Jaro Carmel, the parting was quite tearful as the 20 other sisters realized that they would never see their colleagues again (such is their missionary spirit that goodbyes are for real). At the Iloilo airport, the families of the five nuns wept at their leaving. At the send-off in the Gilmore convent, this columnist spoke with the two youngest sisters in the group, Sr. Elizabethe Sandig, 34, the youngest and only girl in her family of seven children, and Sr. Marie Therese Tibudan, 35, also the only daughter, with three brothers. The two fought off tears, as they stressed that while there's pain in their hearts, "we know we are going to be given the strength to bear it." Their team leader, Sr. Mary Grace Quiño, 60, who will become the Capetown prioress said: "Along with the gift of mission, we are given the necessary graces. We are not afraid of what lies ahead in South Africa." The other two nuns are Sr. Mary Joan Gaitan, who is in her late 40s, and Sr. Carmela Malayo,.51.

* * *

**The mission to Africa is the second for the Philippine Carmelites. In 1998, they also plucked several nuns from various houses and trained them for missionary work in Ghana. Fr. Joel Borreo, OCD, provincial of the Carmelite Fathers, said that God willing, the friars will follow to distant lands in three to six years, although right now they are busy with the religious formation of Vietnamese candidates to their order.**

**But it's not only the Carmelites that are sending Filipino missionaries to faraway places. Many other orders are doing so, and with the help of overseas Filipino communities, they are revitalizing the Church everywhere. Indeed the Philippine Church is in its springtime, and from its vigorous trunk springs many beautiful buds and leaves.**

* * *

I saw the recent Time magazine cover that dwelt on the problem facing the Church, particularly the American Church: the issue of priests charged with sexual harassment of minors. Though the number of priests believed to be involved in these crimes is estimated at about 5 percent of the total number of US priests, the magazine bannered the query, "Can the Catholic Church save itself?" That obviously sensationalized query ignores history: the Church founded by Christ has weathered many serious challenges in the past 2,000 years, including the breakaway of the English Church during the time of Henry VIII, the reformation of Martin Luther in the early 16th century and schisms in our own time.

In addition, the query fails to take into account the 95 percent among priests and other religious, who struggle heroically against many temptations and succeed in conquering themselves for God through prayers and sacrifices. Can the Church save itself? Seeing the pain in the eyes of the nuns who were bound for Capetown and who knew they would never see their loved ones again, I had no doubt in my mind.

# Turn-ons and put-ons

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

INTERVIEWED by Jay Leno on the "Tonight" show, Mira Sorvino was talking about how, for her latest movie in which she played a princess impersonating a male courtier, she had to wear a rolled-up hankie under her pants just so she could "stand and swagger like a man."

To which Leno snickered that "a hankie wouldn't have gotten you very far as a man."

Still, insisted Sorvino, the bulge in her groin did make her feel like a man, giving her the confidence to "walk larger," occupying a larger space in the world, unlike most women whose tendency is to contract, not wanting to take up more space than is proper for themselves.

Who did she model her "man" after? William Shatner as Captain Kirk of "Star Trek" fame, she said, because he so embodied and almost parodied most people's ideas of masculinity.

Anyway, I mention the hankie in Sorvino's pants because it's funny how its presence fed even a woman's idea of what makes a man a "man." As Leno's aside shows, a man's concept (and measure) of maleness rests largely on the size of his sex organ, which men, it seems to me, equate with sexual performance and a man's ability to please his partner.

And yet, in "Love and Lust," an international research study conducted by Euro RSCG Worldwide among 1,606 consumers in eight countries, to the question "Which body parts turn you on?" none of the female respondents mentioned "the bulge in his pants."

* * *

**MEN might do better, it seems, to hit the gym daily or strive for a full-lipped, sensitive look, than go for penile implants (or hair transplants) if they want to score better in the sex sweepstakes.**

**The most appealing and indeed arousing body part for the women respondents were a man's lips (50 percent), followed closely by the man's chest/shoulders (48 percent). Other body parts the women responded to: eyes (44 percent), bottom (36 percent), neck and hands (both at 32 percent).**

**The findings on the men's preferences were not at all surprising. Fully 80 percent said a woman's breasts turned them on, while 59 percent cited the buttocks. Truly, the stereotype of the "tits and ass" guy lives on. The next highest-ranking women's body part were the thighs (42 percent). Though not strictly a sexual organ, the thighs indeed still carry much sexual connotation.**

**As the study notes: "Looks overall—in other words, visual signals—are more important triggers of desire for men than for women. Women respond to attractive looks, too, of course, but tend to contextualize them. In other words, they weigh them together with behavior and personality."**

**Seeking to explain why men's barometer for desirability is linked so intimately with sexuality and reproduction, the "Love and Lust" study cites a finding that "a greater proportion of women's traditional reproductive value as a mate can be assessed visually. The clearest feminine cue to fertility is the curving contours created by the contrast between waist and hips..." Hundreds of volunteers of different ages, cultures and genders, were once asked to rate people in photos according to attractiveness. Women exhibiting the "classic" waist-to-hip ratio typical of women in their childbearing years emerged as most attractive.**

* * *

MY own take on men's seeming obsession with penile size is that it tends to reflect on their performance in bed as well.

For men, the "point" of all sexual activity is penetration, where they presumably experience the greatest pleasure and ultimate release. So can we blame them for thinking women seek and find their greatest pleasure at the end of a sexual romp as well? Thus, men's other obsession with "staying" power, with being able to maintain an erection and delay ejaculation as long as possible. (Sex counselor Margie Holmes says that after letters on penile size, she gets the most letters from men concerned about premature ejaculation.)

Well, maybe it's about time women told men that it's not how long the coupling lasts, but how long the foreplay took. Too many men, it seems, believe that the only reason they need to indulge in foreplay is to "prepare" a woman for penetration. And yet many women may look forward to and even value foreplay as much as, if not more than, the actual penetration.

Dr. Holmes has the perfect joke to illustrate this point: Why do women fake orgasms? Because men fake foreplay.

* * *

**TO RETURN to the "Love and Lust" survey. Asked to choose among 14 sexual and/or erotic activities they "had done and which they hadn't done but would like to do," the majority of the global respondents admitted to having done just two activities: had sex in a car (68 percent, ranging from 4 percent in China to 88 percent in Italy—those Italians really love their cars!), and had sex with a married person (54 percent—with Italians and French leading the pack).**

**There was one statistic that caught my eye. The Chinese excelled in having "sex with more than one person at the same time" (29 percent, as compared to 24 percent of Americans), though only 9 percent admitted to wanting to do it. Well, that explains why there are five billion of them!**

**Then again, asked if they agree with the statement, "I worry that I'm not very good in bed," the Chinese ranked highest (57 percent) among those confessing to feelings of sexual inadequacy. This tells me that while they may be quite efficient (and multi-tasked) sexual partners, more than half of all Chinese are having sex under a cloud of anxiety. Maybe they need rolled-up hankies in their pants, too.**

# At last, the International Criminal Court (1)

## HUMAN FACE

*Ma. Ceres P. Doyo*

"THERE is no justice in this world." An expression many of us say when disappointments come, when we are shortchanged by a few pesos, when someone gets the credit, raise or praise for something he did not do, when someone steals from the company and later gets promoted. Yes, you could live with it.

But for individuals and communities whose lives have been ruled and overcome by violence, who are haunted by it in their waking hours and in their sleep, who have to live with their trauma until their dying day, "there is no justice in this world" is not a mere interjection. It is a cry of pain, a scream. **Justice is a hunger**, a thirst, an all-consuming yearning.

The past century was one violent century unlike any other, it left in its wake massive destruction not only of man-made structures and the environment, but of human lives, families, communities, nations. Many victims, now in the winter of their lives, have crossed over to this new century, hobbling, still waiting for justice, or even just a token of it. Consider the sex slaves of the Japanese Imperial Army, the women they mutilated. Think of Japan mutilating history through its textbooks. Think of the torturers, the dictators who get away with impunity.

The good news: There is reason to celebrate. The International Criminal Court (ICC) will finally be established. The ICC gives hope to victims of heinous crimes and, in cases where the government and the domestic judicial system are **unable** and **unwilling** to prosecute individual perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression.

The not-so-good news: The Philippine government would be depriving its aggrieved citizens a venue for seeking justice by not becoming a party to the Rome Statute for the ICC. The Philippines did sign in December 2000, but the executive department has not endorsed the documents for Senate ratification.

Two months to go before the enforcement of the Rome Statute and a few months more before the first meeting of the Assembly of State Parties. Is there a way the government could fast-track its act? Or is the government not interested to see Filipinos finding another venue for redress and reparation?

A case in point is that of the 10,000 plus victims of human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship. There was inability and failure to prosecute on the part of the government because of the immunity enjoyed by the president and the absence of an impartial court. The victims did file a class suit against Marcos in a Hawaii court which later rendered a judgment in favor of the victims and for the Marcos estate to pay civil and moral damages in the amount of $1.9 billion. But the victory is incomplete, hollow because the foreign ruling has not been enforced locally.

The ICC has no jurisdiction on this particular case because of the principle of non-retroactivity, but it is hoped that in the future it will be able to push for enforcement of judgments on heinous crimes.

What is the ICC? Why should the Philippines be involved in it? Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste have introduced resolutions in their respective chambers urging immediate ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC. Legislators should not tarry on this one. (More on the ICC next week.)

**Cool in QC Hall.** I went to City Hall in Quezon City last week to pay my real estate taxes and went home with a big smile on my face. You see, like most citizens, I get sick in the stomach whenever I go to government offices to follow up something. Although things have changed for the better these past few years (I got my car registration in 30 minutes flat at the Manila West District of the LTO), I still have not gotten over unpleasant trips in the past.

I went to the QC Treasurer's Office for the realty tax assessment and found everything orderly and computerized. But the most pleasant surprise was on the second floor where business and realty-tax payers now have to go to pay.

Wow. The place looks like an international airport pre-departure area or even an airport lounge. There's free, piping-hot coffee and iced tea from a machine. And television, too. When you enter, you get a number and wait for it to be flashed. The immovable seats are in bright red and the air-conditioner sure works. So unlike in the past, when *magbabayad ka na nga, pahihirapan ka pa.*

On my way out, I noticed spanking new comfort rooms (for taxpayers too) done in mauve and with muted indirect lighting. I entered to do some inspection. Hmmm, I thought, *maisulat nga.*

Eight months ago, I was in the same place for a magazine cover story on Mayor Sonny Belmonte. He was just three months in office then, and I wanted to get straight from him what he was going to do about the ugliness in the city where my home is, where some of the best schools are located, where most national government offices are, where the NGO capital of the Philippines (UP Village) happens to be. He said something about first putting his house in order and that included the finances (and, sshh, the corruption).

After serving as congressman, Belmonte could have rode on the crest of Edsa II toward the Senate. But he gave up the Senate for QC.

Well, I read a few days ago that QC has more than exceeded the previous years' tax collection. If you pamper taxpayers, not just with free coffee and tea but with good services and a better city, you could collect more. Now, can QC do a Marikina? I know it is 15 times bigger in area than its tiny neighbor, but size should not be a problem. People are both the problem and the solution.

# Going nuts

DON'T you just hate it when you have to make a decision—one decision that can affect the next few months or maybe the rest of your life?

I have never been so confused. It's not like when you are in college and you think about cutting class. It only takes you five minutes flat to think about not going to class and 30 seconds to convince your other friends to cut their classes, too. Or when you all decide whether to go to the mall to eat lunch or in the restaurant in front of the school.

## YOUNGBLOOD

*R.S.*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.*—**Ed.**

It's totally different when you have to decide whether you go to a place that is not familiar to you or to stay at a place where someone will always be there to comfort you. It's like this: I am here in the United States trying to figure out whether I should stay here or not. I have always dreamed of staying here. Now that I am here my goal is to find a way to earn a living and to legalize my stay.

I am just so confused about what I should do. I am faced with a decision that I should make pretty soon, real soon.

My classmate back in college wrote me the other week. In her letter, she said that the company she was working with had several job openings for IT (information technology) people. She said the company sponsored people if that was necessary to make their stay legal.

I thought I had won the jackpot when I learned this. I asked myself, "Is this what He has planned for me?"

Then she went on to say the job paid $320 a week or maybe a couple of dollars more. I started converting it to pesos and the next thing that kept running in my head was dollar and more dollars.

The problem is, this job is in Los Angeles, where I don't have any relatives. The last time I've been there was when I was around 7—or was it 10?—years old.

The other job is being offered by a kind aunt. She went through a lot of meetings with her boss and staff to get me into the company where she is working. This company is offering me the same pay: $320 weekly.

Not bad, huh? But this company doesn't offer any sponsorship and it doesn't guarantee that it will sponsor my stay even if I do well.

My aunt said it is up to me to impress the people and make them feel that they need me enough to sponsor me. But if my instincts are correct, that has a one-percent chance of happening.

If I stay with my aunt I can take home probably my entire weekly pay of $320. But if I fly to Los Angeles and work there, I will have to save every single penny I earn because I must pay the rent, which I hope will include hot and cold water, the heater on cold days and food. I also have to take public transportation to work there, whereas if I stay with my aunt I will have food and lodging and a free ride to work.

There are other fees that I have to pay in order to get the working visa that I have always dreamed of. There are the Immigration and Naturalization Service fees and the lawyer's fees, the total of which is more than what I have right now.

My classmate said I could work for a couple of months and save money. She said that if I joined the company, I would have to work there for a minimum of three years, after which I could already apply for a green card. Or if I should choose to change jobs, then I could look for a company that would continue the sponsorship. This company could just be a stepping stone.

All this reminded me of the time I was closing the sales in our store back home. Once I noticed that a salesgirl was looking very confused and upset because the money she was turning over was short of her sales for the day. She panicked the moment she saw me because she knew I was going to collect the money. I asked her what was wrong and she just smiled at me and said, "Nothing sir."

I was wondering what she meant because I knew there was something wrong. So I told her I would count the money. I found out that it was short by more than P100. I asked her, "Are you sure this is all the money that you have?" Then I suggested that she check the cash register where she had kept the money.

She checked the cash register and came back saying there wasn't any money left. So I told her she might as well close sales.

Suddenly her face lighted up. She remembered that a customer had gone back to the store that day and had the deposit she had made earlier reimbursed when she found out that her order couldn't be delivered that day.

I checked out her report and found out that she had not deducted the deposit. I corrected her report, and saw there was an excess of P148.

I asked her, "Where did this money come from?" She told me it was her money and that it was the last money she had until the next payday, six days away.

I was dumbfounded. I couldn't imagine how she could survive for six days on P148. I told myself that was what I spent for a single lunch in school.

From that day on, I have valued my money more even if I never seem to run short of it. I have often thought about her and wondered how she could survive on so little. I have told myself that if that girl could find ways of stretching such a small amount over a period of six days, then I could find a way of doing the same thing.

Now, I don't know what is the right thing to do because both job opportunities have their good and bad points. There are also questions the answers to which I will never know until I try it out. One may be the better choice but I will never know if I will be happy with the work I will be doing. The other may be tough but it may turn out to be the right choice. I am just so confused. Thinking of the money that I must have and the expenses I must make drives me nuts.

I have to decide on this and it must be soon.

*R.S., 21, graduated last year from the University of Asia and the Pacific. He went to the United States in December for a vacation and sent this letter to his lolo to seek his advice.*

## THEY SAID

### Going slow

"If we allowed our impulse to rule, we would have had to dismiss a lot of our people here immediately."

***—Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac, when asked if she was disappointed with the performance of Swiss lawyer Martin Kurer***

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# Media reflect people's preferences

I WOULD like to thank and commend Lito Zulueta for his article, titled "The pornography of grief in television," last April 7, 2002.

Thank you for expressing exactly what I was thinking in the last few days following Rico Yan's death. I was one of the ones who was hungry for news about Rico's death on Good Friday and am partly guilty of "gobbling up" all the information about it on Black Saturday and Easter Sunday. However, as the days wore on, and Rico's death turned into a perverse circus, I was forced to see a side of the Filipino character that had me hanging my head in shame—the part of us that enjoys spectacle at the expense of others, the part of us that wants to meddle in the private grief of others, the part of us that will exploit others to fulfill our need for entertainment.

The viewers also play a part in this. TV will do everything to raise ratings and increase viewership. What they show us is also a reflection of our preferences as viewers. And so far, I'm sure the media have not been disappointed, as many of my friends and people across the nation were glued to entertainment shows, tributes and what-have-you over Rico's death. We, the viewers, only get what we deserve. And if this is the case, as my friend put it so very well, "we are in bad shape indeed."

Once again, I thank Zulueta for reassuring me that there are still sane people in this country.

**—AURORA ANTONIO,**
**au_antonio@yahoo.com**

# RP neutrality supports Israel's aggression

AS members of the Philippine International Forum, an organization of foreigners living and working with the Filipino people, we would like to express our horror over Israel's continued and relentless armed attacks against the Palestinian people whose lands it has been illegally occupying for several decades.

The establishment of Israel by a 1948 UN resolution forced the Palestinian people out of their lands. They have never known peace or freedom ever since.

The Palestinian people's attempts to claim their rights through peaceful means against Israeli violence have consistently been scuttled by the United States which has always protected its strategic ally in the Middle East by providing it with weapons and financial backing.

Because of the outrageous military attacks against the Palestinians in their own areas, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1402 denouncing Israeli aggression against the Palestinians and demanded that Israel immediately withdraw its forces. This and previous related UN resolutions have been blatantly ignored by Israel and its patron, the United States.

The current invasion of territories that were placed under the control of the Palestinian Authority by the Oslo Peace Accord violates international law. It is an intolerable act of aggression against the Palestinian people, depriving them not only of their right to a sovereign homeland but also of their basic needs like food, shelter, health services and water.

The scale to which this war has affected the civilian population is tragic. Since September 2000, it is estimated that 1,400 Palestinian civilians, including women and children, have been killed by Israeli forces. The Palestinian centers of government and civilian population are being deliberately destroyed.

This is not a conflict among equals. Israel's aggression is not justifiable.

In such an unequal situation, the Philippine government's claim to neutrality constitutes tacit support for the aggressor, whose military power is uncontested. We believe that the Philippine government is neglecting its moral obligation to defend the Palestinian people against this unjust and overpowering aggression.

We call on the Filipino people, who themselves are all familiar with repression and subjugation, as well as the citizens of our own countries and all peace-loving individuals and groups to join us in condemning the aggression against the Palestinian people. Israel should withdraw immediately from the occupied territories and implement UN Resolution 242 of 1967 to make the establishment of a viable Palestinian state possible. Israel should be made to compensate for the damage it has done to the Palestinian people. Justice and respect for sovereignty are undeniably prerequisites for a lasting peace in the Middle East and everywhere.

**—WIM DE CEUKELAIRE, M.D., HANS SCHAAF, PROF. CARLTON PALM and MARY GRENOUGH, MM, coordinating committee, The Philippine International Forum (PIF)**

# Proper disposal of asbestos observed

THIS has reference to an item in the Across the Nation section last April 6, 2002 on the National Power Corp.'s application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the rehabilitation of the Mak-Ban Geothermal Power Plant (MBGPP). While the key issues reported were indeed part of those discussed (except for those allegedly coming from an "undated document"), the report failed to mention the fact that the NPC and Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI) received the unanimous endorsement and support of the participants, mostly representatives of the host communities.

Thus, the title of the news item ("Asbestos poisoning raised against Mak-Ban") hardly reflected the tenor of the hearing, which covered in great detail the host community benefits and the risk-mitigation measures, including those on asbestos-containing waste materials.

To amplify, asbestos at the time the plants were built in the late 1970s, was highly acceptable as construction material—for roofing, wallboard, etc. In compliance with proper waste management, the material is temporarily stored in crates to prevent the release of particles into the air.

At the hearing, we noted the fact that both the United States and ILO standards consider monolandfill as the preferred final disposal option for asbestos waste. As Dr. Carlos Arcilla of the UP National Engineering Center explained, asbestos goes back to its natural element when buried in the ground.

The MBGPP is going to operate the monolandfill precisely to comply with a Department of Environment and Natural Resources order for the final disposal of the asbestos waste. In the hearing, the choice of a landfill site was also explained, with assurances that asbestos is not a threat in a managed landfill.

We do realize that the one-day hearing covered a broad range of shared concerns with our host communities. We hope, however, that the positive and substantive conclusions in that hearing will be given as much coverage as the preliminary discussions.

**—ANTONIO F. YEE, asset manager, Philippine Geothermal Inc. Mak-Ban, 12/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City**

# Environment ignored in Quezon-Aurora project

THE INQUIRER'S April 9 issue (Real Estate section) described the Pacific Coast City project located in the mountainous borders of the provinces of Quezon and Aurora as a "potential investment haven."

The core of the project sits on 27,851 hectares of land—a size almost equivalent to half of Metro Manila's land area—being claimed as "private property" by Pacific Coast City proponents, Green Circle Properties and Resources Inc. (GCPRI) and Green Square Properties Corp. (GSPC).

In addition to the 27,851 hectares, the GSPC also claims ownership of over 50,000 hectares of mountainous lands in General Nakar, Quezon.

Reporting Pacific Coast City as an "investment haven" without looking into the political, social and environmental implications of such a grandiose project is surely not the "balanced news" your newspaper wants to stand for.

The whole scheme of the Pacific Coast City project entails: first, logging to clear the remaining forest area for "development," second, mining to level the extremely steep slopes of this part of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, and third, the selling by the GCPRI of "their private forest land and watershed" to land speculators.

In printing the article, your paper should have presented the protest of local residents, which started as early as 1995, against the Pacific Coast City project then known as the "Green City." It should have also presented the continuing protest actions of the Dumagat tribal people, farmers, local Church leaders and environmentalists against the logging operation of the GCPRI in its "claimed 27,851-hectare private forests."

In fact, the project was not able to take off during the time of Environment Secretary Victor Ramos because of its serious negative implications on the ecological balance of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range which is Luzon Island's backbone of biodiversity.

The project was revived in 1999 and was later anomalously proclaimed by former President Estrada as a flagship project and given the status of special economic zone and tourism estate which the proponents brandish in local communities like a badge that allows them to do whatever they want in the contested area.

Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo should stand by her constituents instead of promoting a logging-mining-land speculation project that will ultimately deprive them of their land.

**—JEROME R. IGNACIO, Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Phils. (IRDF), 98 Mapang-akit St., Pinyahan, Quezon City**

# Uneasy with three-day weekends

LAST April 7, the United States changed her time by moving it ahead one hour. Day light saving time, like President Cory Aquino's program before. But this is automatic here every spring. Then the Americans bring back the time before winter. The reason, my husband said, is that spring is no longer a cold season so working early in the morning is not difficult for the body anymore. That means, they add one hour more to their working hours.

That's why America is America. Americans take all the opportunity to work longer, for as long as they can. They have no lunch breaks here. Processing of checks in the bank is only 24 hours. My husband now leaves the house at 7 a.m. (but in reality it's only 6 a.m.) and comes home the same time in the afternoon as before. So instead of eight hours, he is out nine hours now. No wonder they are very productive.

I do not know how to compare this to the four-day work scheme of our government. But isn't it wrong in general that while we are off from the office for three days, neighboring countries are working up to the last hour left of the day to add more to their production?

**—DOLLY B. TAN, Palm Desert, California, USA**

# 'Bangungot,' the sequel

**PINOY KASI**

***Michael L. Tan***

I KNOW, this is beginning to look like those never-ending sequels to the "Creepy Nightmare Horror Show." I'll admit this is my fourth article on *bangungot*, but then the articles were spread out over the last four years. And I just had to respond to the readers who sent letters after my last article two weeks ago.

Some readers were asking for more information, even advice on handling *bangungot*. As readers' letters go, there were also a few that offered very useful information, helping me to answer other readers' inquiries. I'm summarizing two letters that were particularly useful:

One letter comes from Dr. Arnold Cua, a medicine graduate of the University of the Philippines who is now at the State University of New York's Health Science Center in Brooklyn. Cua still remembers *bangungot* being discussed in pathology classes as well as in their rounds at the Philippine General Hospital. Cua recalls how those rounds were tantamount to the Inquisition, as consultants grilled the interns about sudden deaths among patients. A "diagnosis" of *bangungot* eased the tension and, I presume, spared the interns of a *bangungot* that night.

Cua is familiar with the research on *bangungot*, mentioning Filipino reports in the medical journals as early as 1917, the Manila police's forensic division getting involved in the investigations during pre-World War II and in 1956, Manila's mayor establishing a Bangungot Research Foundation!

Cua presented a succinct summary of the medical research that has been done in different countries with problems similar to *bangungot*. Medical terms used include Sudden Unexplained Death Syndrome and Sudden Unexplained Nightmare Death. (Cua gave me very good references which I can forward to interested readers. E-mail me at miguel@pinoykasi.net for a copy.)

Cua notes that while "acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis" is usually the attributed cause in the Philippines, "no direct evidence" has been seen to support this theory. He cites studies suggesting "quiet cardiac arrythmias" (irregular heart rhythms) with QT prolongation (sorry about the jargon—that's one segment of the heartbeat). He points out that the studies on heart problems are also inconclusive.

On the probable causes, Cua mentions what I already brought up in several columns: dietary or nutrient deficiency, possible electrolyte imbalances, emotional stress and "psychosocial issues unique to Southeast Asian males."

This leads me to the letter from Beth Morales, who is a senior vice president and head of human resources at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Morales focuses on the psychosocial dimension of *bangungot* as she describes her own *bangungot* experience several years ago:

"I couldn't move and my entire body and face seemed immobilized. I didn't overeat or drink any alcohol that time...I was in college then...and physically fit. While I was experiencing *bangungot*, I was very much aware of what was happening around me. I got scared so I tried to shout and call my cousins who were also asleep on a mattress (in the room). I knew I was shouting out very loud but wondering why they couldn't hear me...

"I almost panicked but then instead of fighting it out, I decided to be calm and did deep breathing, and (assuring) myself that as I relaxed with my breathing, I'd gradually be able to move...After a few minutes, I woke up and was able to move."

So there, we have a case where a woman gets *bangungot*. Morales is thankful that her *bangungot* experience happened after she had taken psychology classes with Fr. Jaime Bulatao at the Ateneo. In one of his lectures, Bulatao suggested that *bangungot* might be a "dissociative reaction," a response to stress or emotional ailments. Morales emphasizes that the way to handle this reaction is not to panic or to fight it but to relax and be calm.

I did emphasize this point about stress management in my last article. The folk belief is that you need to move a finger or a toe, but it can be any action, including conscious breathing, to restore your sense of control over yourself. I'm intrigued that the psychologists use this term "dissociative" because it comes close to the folk concept of losing oneself (*nawala sa sarili*). In some ways, *bangungot* is a loss of control over the self. The irony here is that the belief in *bangungot* may contribute to the adverse chain of events: the fear of *bangungot* can lead to panic, which in turn triggers dangerous physical changes that could lead to shock and death.

I am not discounting theories about pancreatitis and heart problems. As I've mentioned before, we might be looking at several problems or syndromes, involving physical and emotional factors. *Bangungot* also has a social dimension. For example, as Filipinas lead more stressful lives and try to be "strong" by keeping their emotions suppressed, we might see more women experiencing *bangungot*.

The letters from Cua and Morales provide the answers to some of your letters about what can be done. We see the importance of responding calmly to *bangungot*, whether they're dissociative reactions, nightmares or sleep disorders. Regain control over yourself and after you wake up, do try to face up to the problems you may have. If you remember serious heart palpitations or "skipping a beat" while going through the *bangungot*, check with your physician as well. It might be another problem that's only being aggravated by *bangungot*.

* * *

Get rid of the week's stress by watching a free sky show this weekend. Lyrid meteor showers are scheduled to appear April 20 and 21 between midnight and dawn, with peak hours from 2 to 4 a.m. Look for the meteors in the northeast sky around Vega, a bluish white bright star. You can munch while you watch, but don't overeat or binge on alcohol.

# Clarifications from SKAL Makati

THIS is in response to the letter of Angel Ramos Bognot last March 26, 2002.

The letter was entertaining but full of inaccuracies. I was personally involved in the events he mentioned and I think it is incumbent upon me to correct the misrepresentations he made:

1. Bobby Joseph was not the founder of SKAL Makati. It was conceptualized and organized by SKAL Manila in 1979. The persons who were mainly responsible, to name a few, were: Felipe Juico, Manuel Dizon, Jose Cobarrubias, Antonio Chuidian, Ofrie Canlas. The chapter president of SKAL Makati was Canlas. Joseph was invited to join as one of the founding members.

2. Contrary to Bognot's claim; the Makati Day celebration was not conceptualized by Joseph. The town of Makati celebrates Makati Day on June 2. In 1997, as the elected president of the SKAL Club of Makati, I and the members of the incoming board met with Mayor Jejomar Binay. It was during this meeting that Binay invited the SKAL Club of Makati to take part in its forthcoming festivities. Joseph, who was not a board member at that time, was appointed by the board to chair the event. His task was to coordinate the implementation of the project with Lingling Cervantes, the tourism and cultural officer of Makati who headed the planning and implementation of this annual event.

Although it was the first time that SKAL Makati participated in the celebration, it was not the first time that Makati Day was celebrated since this event has been going on for years before 1997.

**—ANGELITA A. EARNSHAW, past president, SKAL Club of Makati, SKAL National Committee of the Philippines.**

# May Day in April?

I AM aghast at the thought that everyone (well, seemingly everyone if the articles published in the INQUIRER and others is any basis) thinks that the whole world celebrates Labor Day on May 1.

Well, the United States and Canada celebrate Labor Day every year on the first Monday of September.

Actually, what we refer to in the Philippines as "Labor Day" is more commonly known throughout the rest of the world as "May Day," marking the international struggle against capitalism and designated as such by the International Socialist Congress of 1899. Ironically, May Day began in the United States as a push to enact legislation which would put in place the eight-hour work day. It was first celebrated in 1886.

Of course, some readers will say that Labor Day in the United States is not the same Labor Day, or more appropriately May Day, that the rest of the world celebrates and so it cannot be considered an exception to the rule that the rest of the world celebrates Labor Day on May 1. But that's evading the point.

In making broad, sweeping statements, one should take care not to make declarations such as "The rest of the world celebrates Labor Day on May 1." What people should be asking is, "Everyone celebrates May Day on May 1, so why are we celebrating May Day in April?"

**—FREDERICK F. CALOPE, Makati City**

# *The* WORLD

*Editor* **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Exiled Afghan king prepares to go home

**ROME—Afghanistan's interim leader arrived in Rome on Tuesday to escort the former monarch home after a 29-year exile, despite continued security concerns in Afghanistan and new allied efforts to flush al-Qaida and Taliban fighters from parts of the country.**

Mohammad Zaher Shah, 87, is scheduled to return to Kabul on Thursday, accompanied by Prime Minister Hamid Karzai—three weeks later than planned. The United States and Italy postponed his initial departure, concerned that security measures weren't adequate to respond to reported plots to assassinate him.

Italian officials, who have maintained responsibility for the king's security while in exile, have said those concerns have since been addressed, and a senior US official said Tuesday in Washington that there were no specific threats against the monarch.

In the past few weeks, a personal bodyguard corps has been trained in Kabul by Swedish peacekeepers, and the security for the villa where Zaher Shah will be living has been reinforced, with the streets around it blocked off.

Additionally, Italian Carabinieri paramilitary police will take up positions inside the king's residence and will work alongside Afghan bodyguards until they can take over the job alone, in about two or three months time, Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Tuesday.

The previously unannounced close involvement of the Carabinieri in the king's personal security detail was an indication that Western officials are still not convinced that Zaher Shah's safety can be assured by Afghan troops alone.

Zaher Shah will arrive in Afghanistan aboard an Italian military C-130 transport plane outfitted to respond to possible missile attacks. At the time of the king's initially scheduled departure, there was a report of a possible plot to use a Stinger missile to down his aircraft, an Italian foreign ministry undersecretary said.

The official, Margherita Boniver, told reporters Monday that "the risk of possible terrorist attacks naturally is always very present," although she said the king's arrival would serve as a stabilizing force for the country. ***AP***

# UK troops join combat

BAHGRAM, Afghanistan—British troops have launched their first major combat operation of the Afghan conflict, joining US and Afghan soldiers searching for al-Qaida fighters and Taliban fighters in the snow-capped peaks of southeastern Afghanistan, coalition officials said Tuesday.

Members of the elite 45 Commando Royal Marines were sent into the area several days ago but their presence there was not made public until Tuesday.

The Marines, skilled in mountain warfare, are operating at elevations above 2,900 meters, Royal Marines spokesperson Lt. Col. Paul Harradine said. He would not specify where the Marines were deployed, but it was believed they were in rugged terrain south of the capital near the Pakistani border.

US military spokesperson Maj. Bryan Hilferty would not say how many American troops were in the area following up on last month's Operation Anaconda—a 12-day assault on Taliban and al-Qaida forces in the eastern Shah-e-Kot mountains. ***AP***

REUTERS

**MIGRANTS' PLIGHT**

**Frightened family members of Chinese migrants hug as hundreds of migrants and relatives confront police outside Hong Kong's legislative council Tuesday. Thousands of illegal Chinese migrants defied warnings from Hong Kong authorities to return to the mainland, with their Hong Kong families protesting and pleading for help.**

# Venezuela: After flip-flop coup, bitterness

CARACAS, Venezuela—Venezuelans have begun to accept President Hugo Chavez's appeal to reflect on a flip-flop coup over the weekend that nearly ripped the nation apart. But so far, there seems to be as much bitterness as forgiveness.

"Polarization has to give way to reconciliation and understanding," Cesar Gaviria, secretary general of the Organization of American States, said after meeting Chavez on Tuesday.

Chavez was toppled Friday—only to retake power on Sunday—amid mass protests in which scores died. Gaviria was leading a fact-finding mission meant to help other governments in the top diplomatic body in the Western Hemisphere understand what happened.

OAS officials are to meet Thursday to discuss the crisis.

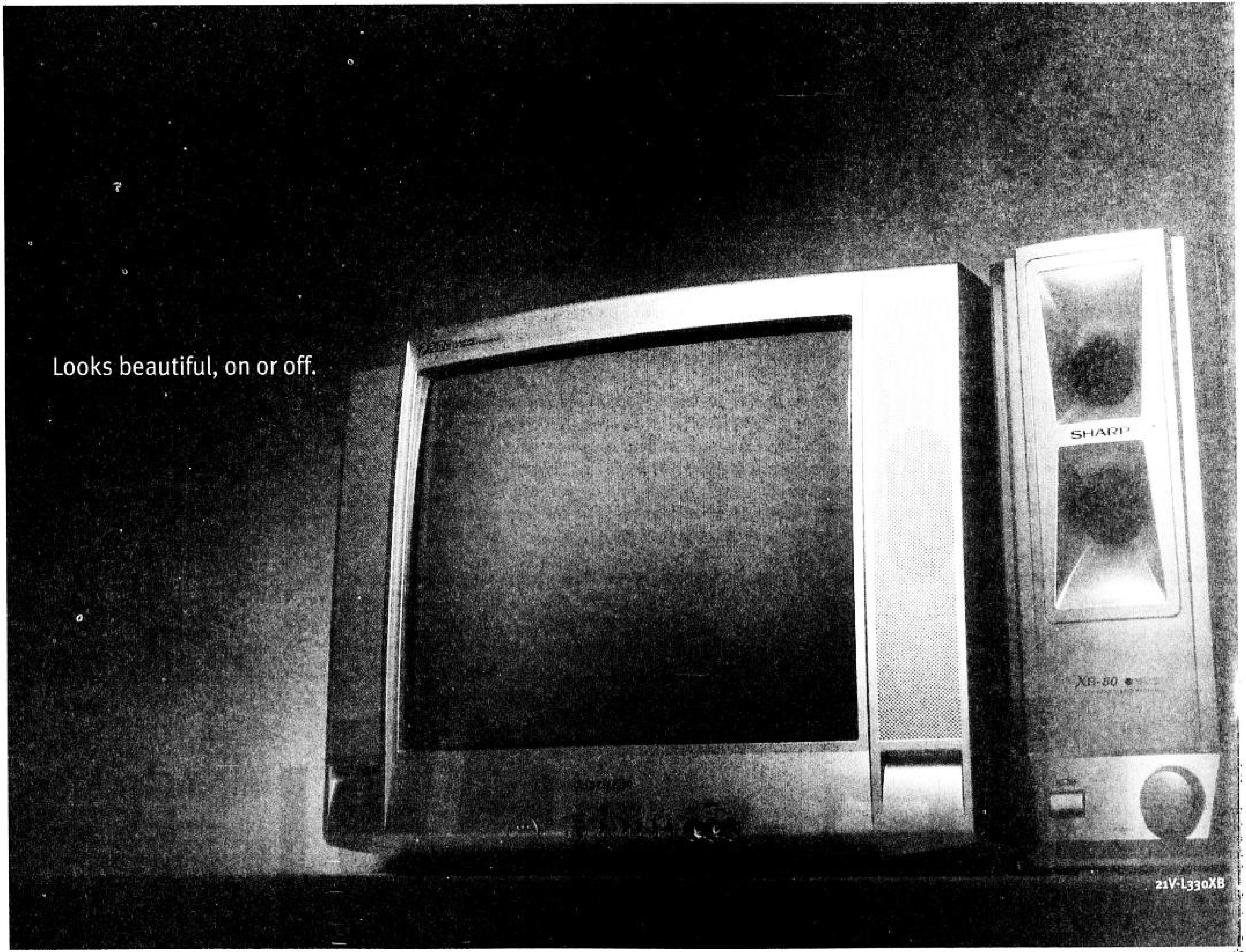
While Caracas has seemingly returned to normal, the passions expressed during mass marches over the weekend by Chavez's supporters and foes remained fierce.

The opposition Democratic Action party announced Tuesday it did not recognize Chavez as president. "The people arose on April 11 to remove that gentleman with a 19th century mentality who misgoverns the fatherland," party president Rafael Marin said.

Even as dozens of civilians and soldiers face possible charges stemming from the coup, Christian Democratic party leader Sergio Omar Calderon appeared to justify it on Tuesday, arguing that Chavez himself had imposed "permanent unconstitutionality" on the country.

Opposition congressmen planned to make their first appearance since the weekend in Venezuela's National Assembly on Wednesday to help name a commission to investigate the turmoil. The Interior Ministry says 49 people died from Friday to Sunday. Caracas' opposition party mayor puts the figure at 121.

The Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, which led a national strike last week that helped topple Chavez, called for a referendum on whether the government should stay. ***AP***



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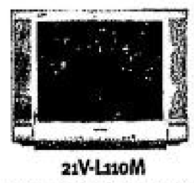
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# 5 US experts join Korea crash probe

RELATIVES view what remained of the ill-fated plane. AP

KIMHAE, South Korea—Five US air safety officials arrived Wednesday to help determine what caused a Chinese airliner to crash in southern Korea killing 126 people, as bereaved family members visited the site hoping to find personal effects of their loved ones.

The Air China flight from Beijing slammed into a mountain on Monday with 166 people on board while preparing to land at an airport outside Busan, South Korea's second largest city, 320 km southeast of Seoul.

Thirty-eight people survived and two are listed as missing.

The US officials from the National Transportation Safety Board were requested to join in the investigation because the crash involved an American-built Boeing 767-200. Chinese officials also joined the probe.

The 17-year-old aircraft was approaching Kimhae Airport in heavy rain and fog when it hit the 300-meter-high forest-covered mountain. Most of the victims were South Koreans.

About 100 South Korean relatives and friends of the victims were bussed to the isolated crash site Wednesday. Carrying flowers and photographs, they offered prayers or dug at the muddy ground.

Sohn Sang-moo, who lost his wife, Lee Myong-sook, brought one apple, one pear and a soda bottle wrapped in a pink tablecloth. He placed the fruit on the wet ground and bowed twice.

"Myong-sook! Myong-sook!" Sohn cried aloud. "We lived together for 41 years 2 months and 19 days. I should have gone first."

South Korean aviation officials have focused on human error after the Chinese pilot told them that he had experienced no mechanical problems before the crash. **AP**

GUSMAO

# Gusmao declared winner

DILI, East Timor—Independence leader and former guerrilla commander Xanana Gusmao has been officially declared the winner of East Timor's first presidential election, a United Nations official said.

Gusmao's landslide victory was formalized when the UN electoral commission announced he had won 82.7 percent of the 378,538 votes cast in Sunday's ballot. His sole challenger, Francisco Xavier do Amaral, took 17.3 percent. Remaining ballots were ruled invalid.

There were no immediate statements from Gusmao or his opponent.

Carlos Valenzuela, the UN electoral chief, announced the election result live on a national radio broadcast.

"I want to wholeheartedly congratulate my friend Xanana Gusmao for his victory," said Sergio Vieira de Mello, East Timor's UN governor.

"As the first president of an independent East Timor, I trust that Gusmao will devote his infinite energy and will to fulfilling the noble pledges he made during the campaign."

De Mello also commended do Amaral, saying "he played a critical role in ensuring that there was competition and healthy debate between both candidates."

Earlier Wednesday, the nascent nation's prime minister congratulated Gusmao on his electoral sweep. "I would like to congratulate Xanana from the depths of my heart for being the thoroughly deserved winner of the elections," said Mari Alkatiri.

East Timor's Constitution stipulates a largely symbolic role for the president. Alkatiri, as prime minister and head of Fretilin—the dominant political party in the national parliament—will have the most say in decision making.

The elections are the final step in East Timor's long and bloody struggle to break free of foreign rule. On May 20, East Timor will become the world's newest independent country when its transitional UN administration formally hands over the running of the country. **AP**

# 3 bills to boost Japan military

TOKYO—Japan's ruling coalition submitted to Parliament on Wednesday legislation to expand Japan's military role and give the government new powers in case of foreign attack.

The three bills, approved Tuesday night by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Cabinet, are designed to give greater power to the prime minister and the Self Defense Forces in time of military emergency. Debate over the factious issue dates back to the 1970s.

Parliament has until mid-June to vote the bills into law. The ruling and opposition parties were to work out schedules for debate, said parliamentary spokesperson Takatoshi Ishizaki. Media reports said deliberations would begin next week.

The bills adoption as law would be a victory for Koizumi, who swept to power last year on pledges to bolster Japan's military. **AP**

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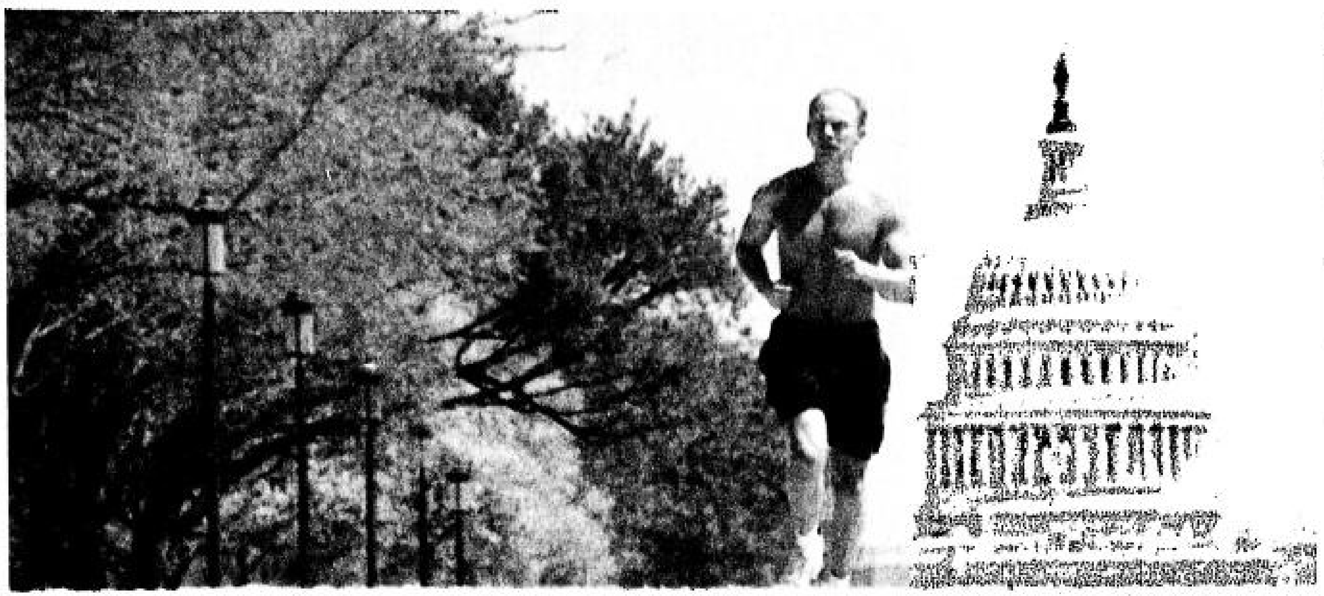

**HEAT WAVE IN THE CAPITAL**

With the dome of the US Capitol rising above, a topless jogger makes his way down the Mall on an unseasonably hot day in Washington D.C. Resembling a summer heat wave more than a spring day, the nation's capital hit 33 degrees Celsius and the warm temperatures are expected to continue for the next few days. REUTERS

# US bishops face 'trial' in Vatican

ROME—Pope John Paul II will meet with his 13 US cardinals on April 23-24 to discuss the crisis facing the Catholic Church over a series of cases of child abuse involving American clergy, the Vatican announced Tuesday.

The Pope will meet the cardinals for a two-day "working meeting" to discuss the crisis beginning next Tuesday, according to a Vatican statement.

"It was a due and urgent response to Catholics and public opinion in the United States, where interpretations by prestigious newspapers have accused the Pontiff of inertia, or even of being incapable of leading the Church," said a US bishop at the Roman Curia who did not want to be identified.

Ecclesiastical scholars in Rome said Tuesday that the meeting could take on the characteristics of a trial, the results of which will be an example to the Church around the world.

"The object of the meeting is to examine the problems which have been created in the Church in the United States following the scandals connected to pedophilia and to introduce guidelines designed, to restore security and calm to the families, and confidence to the clergy and to the faithful," the Vatican said in a statement.

The announcement follows a papal summons sent to US cardinals on Monday. **AFP**

# Israel marks 54th year sans fanfare

JERUSALEM—Israel has no Sept. 11, a single cataclysmic episode. It was more like water torture, one suicide bomb after another, slowly eating into the nation's soul.

The result is the same.

As it marks its 54th anniversary Wednesday, Israel is at war, and its people are wondering if life will ever again be as before.

In the past, Israel marked its birthday with wild festivity, often with bluster and military pride, occasionally with sober introspection. This year, there is confusion, frustration, and a constant, nagging fear.

Since last June, 140 Israelis died in suicide bombs in discotheques, cafés, buses, railway stations, shopping malls, and finally—in the incident March 27 that instigated the massive Israeli reoccupation of Palestinian cities—in a hotel dining room where Israelis and Jewish tourists were having the festive Seder dinner on the eve of the Passover holiday. Many more died in drive-by shootings, sniper fire, roadside bombs.

The toll on the Palestinian side has been far heavier—more than 1,500 in 18 months of fighting, compared with 468 Israelis.

"Between one funeral and the next, between one bombing alert and another, the traditional celebrations may go on, but the heart does not rejoice," wrote columnist Yoel Marcus in the Haaretz newspaper.

## No noise

The city of Haifa canceled official festivities for fear of terrorism. Tel Aviv decided to hold its traditional party outside City Hall, but with noiseless fireworks. "Booms would not be right in our sensitive situation," said the head of the municipal culture department, Yaacov Mandel.

Fear has virtually emptied Jerusalem's shopping streets, normally throbbing with activity this time of year. Cafés, where young Israelis once dawdled over coffee and gossip, don't bother setting up outdoor tables. Dozens of stores have closed. Others advertise liquidation sales. **AP**

# Strike brings Italy to a halt

ROME—Italy shuddered to a halt Tuesday as millions of workers downed tools and took to the streets in the country's first general strike in two decades to protest the center-right government's planned labor reforms.

The eight-hour stoppage called by Italy's three biggest unions shut down factories, shops and schools, grounded air traffic, and brought public transport to a standstill.

The unions claimed the strike was a resounding success and would force Silvio Berlusconi's government to rethink controversial reforms designed to make Italy's notoriously rigid labor laws more flexible.

An unruffled Berlusconi vowed to press on with the reforms in his first reaction to the strike late Tuesday, and reiterated that his government was open to dialogue.

"After the general strike, the social partners must return to negotiation. The government is ready to go back to the table to talk, but it intends to press on with the reforms."

## "Good sign"

The prime minister also welcomed the fact that the strike passed without major incident, and said the "restraint" of the union leaders' rhetoric was a "good sign" for future negotiations.

They claimed that 13 million workers, more than half of Italy's 21.7 million workforce, took part in the strike and that two million people marched in street demonstrations across the country.

"The country has come to a stop. The government has to change course," Sergio Cofferati, secretary general of the biggest union the CGIL, and the most prominent of the strike leaders, told a mass rally in Florence.

The CGIL and the other two unions, CISL and UIL, claimed between 75 and 90 percent of heavy industry had been shut down by the action. **AFP**

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# Balweg murder not case of Abel, Cain

**By Peter La. Julian**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**GREGORIO DEL PILAR, Ilocos Sur—Did Jovencio Balweg, a high-ranking officer of the New People's Army in Abra, order the 1999 killing of his brother Conrado, the former head of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army?**

Or worse, as some newspapers reported then, did Jovencio play Cain and kill his own brother?

"It was neither, said Balweg's older brother Dr. Bienvinido Balweg.

Speaking for the first time since the former rebel priest's assassination on Dec. 31, 1999, Dr. Balweg, a retired professor at the Benguet State University in La Trinidad, Benguet, said at the time of the killing, Jovencio was in the house of their uncle, Francisco Salladan, in Upper Buanao in Malibcong, Abra.

Ka Ambo, as Conrado Balweg was fondly called by friends and foes alike, was killed in the house of Pindo, one of Balweg's brothers, in Lower Buanao in Malibcong.

Buanao is the ancestral village of the Balwegs. Ka Ambo had gone there, among other purposes, to be one of the speakers during the alumni homecoming of the St. Joseph Elementary School where he graduated.

Dr. Balweg, who was guest during a fiesta here on Monday, said he was supposed to attend the school's alumni homecoming but he missed the bus to Malibcong by 30 minutes.

Dr. Balweg, who studied for the priesthood in the same school like his slain brother but chose not to be ordained, said he made his own investigation of his brother's killing.

"Jovencio could not have ordered the killing because at that time, the NPA had clipped his (Jovencio) powers and could not just make orders, not even to kill anybody," he said.

"If Jovencio admitted, as he did, at least in the newspapers that he ordered the assassination of Ka Ambo, it was because he wanted to prevent a bloody confrontation among Abra's NPA rebels and those in southern Ilocos Norte."

It was understood that the NPA rebels in Ilocos Norte did not want the former CPLA chair to be killed.

Dr. Balweg, who now heads the Northern Cultural Communities committee of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, said Ka Ambo succeeded in convincing a German non-government organization to provide money for a housing project in Buanao.

He said three Germans, who were NGO members, arrived in Bangued, Abra, three days before the murder to deliver to the former priest an initial amount of P3 million to start the project.

But on the day they arrived, Dr. Balweg said his brother and his family had gone to Malibcong.

The Germans saw Balweg's body lying in state at the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) house in Bangued, Abra, Dr. Balweg said. The late Balweg was a member of the SVD congregation.

Dr. Balweg, who came here with Lydia, the youngest of seven Balweg siblings, said he never knew where the money went. He said if Ka Ambo did not die, he could have initiated more projects in poverty-stricken Abra.

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Luzon and Visayas will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Hi35° Lo24° |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Hi 26° Lo15° |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Hi 35° Lo 26° |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo24° |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Hi 35° Lo25° |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo22° |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo28° |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 24° |
| Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 25° |
| Roxas | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 27° |
| Cebu | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 25° |
| Tacloban | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 25° |
| Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy | Hi 34° Lo 25° |
| Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 25° |
| Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 23° |
| Davao | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 23° |

Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research/04/18/02

## ROUNDUP

### Farmers arrested

DAVAO CITY—Authorities arrested two farmers in Marilog District here on Monday after a raid on their farms yielded hundreds of fully-grown marijuana plants. Adriano Campañas, 52, and Esmeraldo Tormis, 42, both residents of Sitio Mamukbok, Barangay Lower Quibalan readily admitted that they owned the illegal crop, which they planted in the middle of their cornfields. They said they were forced to grow marijuana to support their families. Senior Insp. Joseph Sepulcre, deputy chief of the City Mobile Group, said charges would be filed against the erring farmers.

*Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Dump ordered closed

TANAUAN CITY—A four-hectare dump in Barangay Bañadero in this city was ordered closed by the provincial government's Environment and Natural Resources Office last month. The dump's toxic leak is feared to contaminate Taal Lake, which is just a kilometer away, according to environment officer Evelyn Estigoy. Estigoy said the dump has no environmental clearance certificate and mayor's permit. No public consultation was held before the dump was opened last December. Barangay residents revealed that the dump has even expanded to a creek and a river connected to Taal Lake. Department of Environment and Natural Resources forester Jasmin Villanueva also reported that the barangay has been the dumping area for Metro Manila garbage, especially those from Ayala-Alabang subdivisions.

*Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### 5 robbers nabbed

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Police here arrested five members of a robbery gang believed to be behind a spate of robberies in the province. Reports said members of the Rado Gang were about to rob a Japanese businessman based in Sta. Maria town on Thursday when police arrested them. Recovered from the suspects were three .38 cal. revolvers, a shotgun and a Toyota Revo that they used in their criminal activities, police said.

*Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

### Cleanup on Earth Day

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—The Kalikasan Vigilante ng Pangasinan-Save the Parongking River Ecosystem Foundation (KVP-Spare) will conduct a coastal cleanup in Dagupan City's Tondaligan Beach and a sand-making contest to mark Earth Day on April 21. Provincial environment and natural resources officer Eligio Soliman said the foundation will also launch a program to retrieve recyclable materials to encourage Pangasinenses to collect cans, bottles, plastics and other used materials. With the theme "Save the Earth," the sand-making contest is open to residents and visitors of Pangasinan.

*Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### New Bataan police chief

BALANGA CITY—The former director of the Bulacan police mobile group is now the new Bataan police director. In a simple turnover ceremony here on Tuesday, Gov. Leonardo Roman expressed support for Senior Supt. Sahiron Salim, who replaced Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad. Salim, the first Muslim to become provincial police director in Central Luzon, is a recipient of several medals for his achievements as a Constabulary soldier and police officer.

*Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

### Roco at UPLB graduation

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco will keynote the 30th commencement exercises at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños this Saturday, 3 p.m., at the DL Umali Freedom Park. Roco will address 1,543 graduates led by Jericho Bautista, a BS Applied Mathematics student who is graduating summa cum laude. Of the 1,543 graduates, 15 will be conferred magna cum laudes and 77 cum laudes, the UPLB Office of Public and Alumni Affairs said in a news release.

# Gov says diary proves slain rights leader a rebel

DAVAO CITY—Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel day backed the military's claim that the death of human rights worker Benjaline Hernandez in a remote village of Arakan town on April 5 was the result of a legitimate encounter between the military and the New People's Army.

Earlier, Karapatan said Hernandez's death and that of her three companions were plain murders perpetrated by military and paramilitary elements under the Army's 12th Special Forces Company.

But Piñol said based on the findings of a multi-sectoral investigation group formed by the Arakan local government on April 11, Hernandez was indeed a member of the NPA.

Piñol also said entries in Hernandez's diary, which was one of those recovered from the clash site, detailed her activities in the underground movement.

Hernandez allegedly used Dina as her *nom-de-guerre*.

Piñol said before the Kinawayan encounter, Hernandez's group also clashed with the military in Barangay Salasang, also in Arakan on April 2. Hernandez in her diary said an NPA rebel identified as Ka Jordan was wounded in the fight.

But while he confirmed Hernandez's work in the underground, Piñol said Labaon Sinunday, one of those killed on April 5 was a civilian, who was caught in the crossfire.

"It is difficult to establish, given the absence of witnesses in the scene of the fighting, to determine whether he was killed by bullets fired by the government troops or he was killed by the rebels on suspicion that he led the (government troops) to the location of the rebels," he said.

He also chided Karapatan for trying to "cast an image of a ruthless and bloodthirsty government that unleashes its dogs of war to prey on and murder a young, beautiful, bright girl with a great future ahead of her."

"(Karapatan chair) Bishop (Felixberto) Calang simply went berserk and made conclusions and condemnation even before an investigation could be conducted," he said.

Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan, however said Piñol's statement only proved that he was on the military's side.

"It only shows the true color of Piñol, the governor is just a mouthpiece of the military," he said.

Virador said that there was more reason now for Karapatan to fear for the safety of its witnesses after elements of the 12th Special Forces Company harassed them.

**PROOF of rebellion, according to Piñol, are these firearms and a diary found in the site where Hernandez was killed.**

BING GONZALES

Despite the findings of the Arakan multi-sectoral fact-finding group, the Cotabato provincial board started another investigation of Hernandez's death.

Board member Eliseo Garcesa Jr. said the formation of the provincial task force would compliment a similar investigation, which the Senate will be conducting.

"We want to know if the raid was legitimate and the killings were considered human rights violation as pictured by some sectors," Garcesa said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez also called on the Hernandez family to file a formal complaint before his office so the Department of Justice could start its investigation of their allegations of murder. ***Anthony Allada, Joselle d.R. Badilla, Joel Escovilla, Edwin Fernandez, Ayan Mellejor and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# GMA tells Aklan folk brownouts are over

**By N. P. Burgos Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured Aklanons that the electricity crisis plaguing their province would finally be solved.

In an interview over Bombo Radio Philippines, the President announced that a new transmission line from Nabas town to Barangay Caticlan in Malay town, where the world-famous island resort of Boracay is located, will be completed by October this year.

The 69-kilovolt transmission line is expected to stabilize the power supply of the island that has been dependent on the debt-ridden Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco).

Its completion was one of the demands of Boracay residents in an open letter to the President published in the INQUIRER.

Boracay residents including owners of at least 200 resorts and restaurants are the largest stakeholders of Akelco's 59,753 member-consumers.

Aklan Rep. Gabrielle Calizo welcomed the President's announcement. "We've been waiting for this for so long," she said in a phone interview.

### Tourism

She added that the completion of the transmission line will boost the tourism industry in Boracay during the next peak season starting in December.

In the meantime, the House committees on energy and good government will begin today a two-day joint public hearing on the alleged mismanagement of Akelco at the Casa Pilar on Boracay Island.

The joint public hearing will be attended by at least 19 congressmen, Aklan residents, executives and members of the board of directors of Akelco, and representatives of government agencies including the National Electrification Administration and the National Power Corp.

Calizo said the public hearing was prompted by her privilege speech last March 4 on the alleged mismanagement of Akelco led by its general manager Leovigildo Mationg.

# *Court unseats Baliuag town mayor, installs vice mayor*

BALIUAG, Bulacan—Former Vice Mayor Romeo Estrella took over the mayor's post here on Tuesday afternoon on the strength of a local court ruling declaring him winner in the May 2001 elections.

Defying a Commission on Elections *en banc* directive, Estrella took his oath before Executive Judge Oscar Herrera of the Malolos regional trial court at 3 p.m. immediately after he received the writ of execution from Judge Victoria Pornillos of the Malolos regional trial court.

Estrella and his supporters tried to enter the mayor's office Tuesday night but they were prevented from doing so by the allies of ousted Mayor Rolando Salvador who barricaded the municipal hall.

The Comelec directive, signed by Chair Alfredo Benipayo and six commissioners, asked the local court to stop issuing more orders on the case.

But lawyer Emmanuel Malana, Estrella's legal consultant and spokesperson, said the Comelec directive came two hours after Pornillos released the writ of execution. He said Estrella, who filed an election protest after losing to Salvador, assumed the mayor's post on Wednesday morning and issued his first two orders.

In one order, Estrella invoked his right as the duly authorized mayor and directed all municipal employees to resume work immediately after he took his oath.

On Friday, Pornillos declared Estrella as winner in the May 14, 2001 elections.

After 11 months of hearing the case, Pornillos said a recount of votes cast in 362 contested precincts in the town showed that Estrella won over Salvador by 1,439 votes.

Last year, the Comelec proclaimed Salvador as winner after he garnered 18,892 votes against his closest rival Estrella's 16,583 votes.

But Estrella filed an election protest and contested the poll results, citing various election-related irregularities.

After the recount, Pornillos found that Estrella received 15,564 votes while Salvador had 14,125 votes.

In her decision, Pornillos said there were irregularities in the filling up of ballots. She said there were entries in several ballots that were written by only one person. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

# Governor slams Church for condemning vigilante killings

BUTUAN CITY—Surigao del Sur Gov. Vicente Pimentel yesterday scoffed at the Catholic Church's condemnation of summary executions of suspected drug pushers and users by alleged vigilante groups in Tandag town.

"If we allow ourselves to be dictated by the church and priests, we can't do anything in our anti-drug campaign," Pimentel, also chair of the regional peace and order council, told reporters here.

He said he was determined to stop the flourishing drug trade in his province and in Caraga Region.

"I would not listen to comments from the religious sector anymore because what we need is to clean our region of illegal drugs," he said.

Earlier, Bishop Nerio Ochimar of the Archdiocese of Tandag condemned the spate of summary executions of suspected drug pushers and users.

Ochimar also urged the police to investigate and unmask the people who are behind the killings.

Supt. Julian Delicuna, provincial police chief, said no vigilante group operates in the province.

But Pimentel admitted the existence of an anti-drug vigilante group and that he favors its activities.

At least 22 suspected drug pushers have been killed here since the supposed vigilante group started operating late last year.

Pimentel denied having a hand in the operation of the vigilante group, which he said was composed of parents whose children have been victimized by the drug menace.

"Some parents cannot bear to see their children being victimized by these notorious persons so they took matters into their hands," Pimentel said.

But he refused to identify the group's members.

Delicuna said the police were also running after the suspects in the killings, but there has been no arrest due to lack of witnesses.

"We can't really confirm if the deaths were drug-related cases because no one is willing to testify," he said. ***Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

## 'PANGAYAO'

# 'Lumad' kids being armed to fight communist rebels

**By Ferdinand O. Zuasola**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BOSTON, Davao Oriental—They are poor, uneducated and young. But these 10- to 15-year-old boys are armed to fight in a *pangayao* (tribal war) that their parents are waging against the communist New People's Army.

Some Mandaya *lumads* of this town and neighboring Cateel, Baganga, Caraga and Lupon towns, tagged by the military as NPA strongholds, have declared a *pangayao* against the NPA. The elders have sent their children to the battlefield to fight the NPA, which was also accused of recruiting minors to its ranks.

Lawyer Alejandro Aquino, legal officer of the provincial government, however, said he was shocked to learn about the reported arming of children.

Aquino also serves as the Mandaya *lumads*' "dangyaan" or adviser.

"It's true (that) a number of children are being sent to the war fronts to combat the NPA. I will convince my fellow Mandaya *lumads* to spare their innocent children from the war," he said.

"It should not be allowed. Besides, fighting the insurgents is not the job of the indigenous peoples," Aquino added.

But he said there was nothing that can be done to stop the *lumads* from waging war against the NPA "because they could no longer bear the atrocities. They are only poor and yet they are being made to pay hefty revolutionary taxes." Although sending the young *lumads* to war is part of the Mandaya culture, Aquino said he will still "advise my fellow *lumads* to spare their very young children from war."

Earlier, Mandaya tribal leaders in the province trooped to the office of Davao Oriental Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil, herself a Mandaya *lumad*, asking for "more firearms and bullets."

Aquino said Palma Gil refused the *lumads*' request "because she believes arming them will only aggravate the situation."

"Besides, the provincial government could not allocate funds for the purchase of firearms to be given to these people because that is illegal," he said.

Ayong Balilan, 56, said he did not mind sending his children to war because it would be "good to start them very young because that will hone their fighting skills."

"My two sons really wanted to join the military to avenge the death of their militiaman father who was brutally killed by the rebels," said Juana Kaimon, whose 14- and 16-year-old sons are now with the anti-NPA *lumad* warriors.

A local official here said that in Boston town alone, at least 100 minors "are now fighting the NPA.".

But Boston town Councilor Marcial Plaza said townsfolk here "are against the municipal government's plan to arm the *lumads* to fight the NPA because those who were earlier armed have become bandits."

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police chief, had openly campaigned for the arming of *lumads* to fight the NPA.

"We should arm the *lumads* so the NPA rebels will be flushed out of their communities. Arming them is the best way to defend themselves against the NPA," he said.

"Yes, we will provide them firearms," Matillano said during last Monday's police command conference in Boston town.

"There is no problem with arming the *lumads* as long as they are properly motivated, properly trained and properly organized," Matillano added.

The NPA has also been accused of recruiting minors to become guerrillas.

The military said it has arrested several guerrillas in the past who are as young as 12 years old.

The communist rebels have not denied recruiting children.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has urged the NPA to stop recruiting children to become guerrillas.

The UN declaration of children's rights urges countries not to involve children in war and to protect children from the ravages of conflict.

The use of children in combat is prevalent in many Third World countries that are plagued by insurgencies.

In some countries, children are taught at a young age to handle heavy firearms like rocket launchers and machine guns.

# Reporters cautioned on cases of suicide

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Journalists here were asked not to sensationalize suicide cases because reports of a successful suicide may send a troubled person to do the same.

Dr. Henrietta Cabado-Española, a psychiatrist, said the recent three suicide cases in Iloilo may be blamed on extensive coverage by media.

"After a successful suicide I often receive a number of patients who say that they also want to kill themselves," she said.

Incidents of "copycat suicides" have been noticed here a few months ago. A week after reports were aired about the suicide of a youth, two young people also killed themselves.

Española gave a talk on trauma and its effects on victims, especially women and children, before 15 reporters here on April 13.

The forum was sponsored by the Manila-based ReachOut Foundation International and The Visayas Examiner, a community newspaper.

During the forum, Española also appealed for better treatment of other cases like rape, incest and disasters. The physical and psychological shock following a stressful event call for sensitive reporting, said Española, who also teaches at the West Visayas State University College of Medicine.

It is a common practice here of radio stations to air taped and live interviews of rape and incest victims recounting their ordeals in details. Reporters have also no qualms about shoving microphones in the faces of grieving persons.

Many advocates of children and women's issues have frowned at and criticized such conduct of journalists.

Non-government organizations and government agencies also sponsored workshops on gender sensitive reporting. But the race for ratings and scoops often make reporters forget their ethics.

Española said reporters should be considerate if some victims refused to talk following a shock or a stressful event.

# Dagupan mayor starts removing fish pens clogging city rivers

DAGUPAN CITY—The city government has started dismantling fish pens in rivers here in preparation for the dredging of the city's river systems.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the more than 700 fish pens in seven rivers (with an area of 450 hectares) will be demolished but those that block the river's flow will have to go first.

The dismantling of the fish pens started on Monday in the Pantal-Gibang river. Lim said at least five fish pens had been demolished.

The national fishery law provides that not more than 10 percent of the suitable water surface area of all lakes and rivers shall be allotted for aqua-culture purposes like fish pens, cages and traps.

But in this city, almost 70 percent of the rivers have fishery structures, mostly fish pens.

Siltation has also made the rivers shallower—from 36 feet to 12 feet.

"Because the rivers are shallow, we cannot maximize *bangus* production," Lim said.

He said the city government would dismantle the fish pens in the rivers' navigational area to give way to the three dredgers commissioned to remove at least one meter deep of silt from the rivers.

"But all the pens will have to go," he said.

After the rivers are dredged, the city will "rationalize its aquaculture industry in such a way that fish pen operators will not be the rich capitalists but ordinary people who need to have livelihood activities," Lim said.

Currently, owners of fishery structures in the city are mostly capitalists who are from other towns.

Lim said only 10 percent of the rivers will be occupied, but because the rivers are deeper, the production will be higher. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel & Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

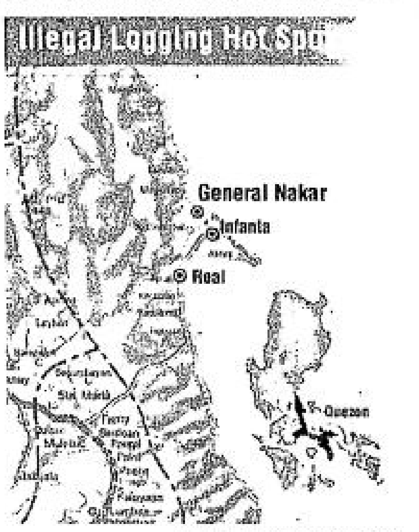
# Illegal logging in Quezon: Who's to blame?

LIKE matchsticks when seen from a military helicopter, illegally cut logs are swept by the current of the Agus River.

DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*General Nakar, Quezon*

AT SEVERAL hundred feet above the ground, the view reminds one of a popular children's game after a heavy rain—the race of matchsticks in the raging current of an overflowing street gutter.



INQMAP : ALBERT RODRIQUEZ

But unlike the game, the sight from aboard a military chopper brings no joy and excitement but a warning of doom if the situation continues unabated.

A report by Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon provincial police director, said at least three million board feet of illegally felled trees worth P60 million were now stacked upriver of the Kaliwa Agus and the Kanan Agus.

The felled trees, sawn into 12-foot square logs, are brought downstream by the river current.

The main Agus River serves as transshipment channel of the lucrative illegal logging activities in the Real-Infanta-Nakar (Reina) area in northern Quezon.

Pastor Marquez, barangay chair of Mahabang Lalim in General Nakar, said at least 100 mini-band sawmills were processing illegally cut logs into commercial lumber along the banks of the Agus River.

The operators, called *kapitalista* (capitalists), put "distinguishing marks or cuts" on the floating logs to identify ownership, he said.

"These (logs) are bought from the illegal loggers in the upper portion of the river at P7 per board foot. But once these reach Barangay Magsaysay in Infanta, which serves as trading ground for illegally cut forest products; the price rises to P10," Marquez said.

The same lumber items, which, he said, are mostly lauan species, would be sold to Manila buyers at P23 per board foot.

"The price of narra is more prohibitive. We call that wood here as gold as it could fetch as high as P50 per board foot in the upper stream," the village chief said under a makeshift tent that serves as cover, for a single band saw along the riverbank.

"But narra-cutting depends on orders from buyers. From what I know, narra is too hot to transport," he said.

Marquez said it usually takes several months for the floating logs to reach Barangay Magsaysay.

Migrant workers from Cavite and Bicol are hired by the illegal loggers, he said. "They would just put up plastic covers as makeshift tents and the cuttings will continue for weeks and months."

General Nakar town is bounded on the north by Aurora province, on the south by the neighboring towns of Infanta and Real, on the east by the Polillo Strait, and on the west by Nueva Ecija, Rizal and Bulacan.

It has a total land area of 134,390 hectares, 95 percent of which is inside the Sierra Madre.

Maj. Gen Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command, has accused the communist New People's Army of protecting the illegal loggers in the Sierra Madre.

"They get two percent of the proceeds from the natives, another five percent from the labor contractor and some 20 percent from the illegal logging operators," Carolina alleged.

He described the underground logging activities as a three-times-a-year illegal industry.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson denied the allegation as "a rehashed tune."

Rosal challenged Carolina to arrest all the illegal loggers in the area, "including the members of the Task Force Kalikasan and I bet, illegal logging will surely stop," he said.

### Politics

Unfortunately, politics has reared its ugly head as Quezon officials do not see eye to eye in their approach to curb illegal logging in the area.

On April 2, Gov. Wilfrido Enverga created Task Force Kalikasan Reina (TFKR) to implement a massive anti-illegal operation along the Agus River. The group listed nine members, with Enverga as chair.

No. 5 in the list was Thelma Aumentado, the Dumagat tribal governor who is also widely known in northern Quezon as heavily involved in illegal logging under the protection of a written privilege granted to her tribe by the government.

General Nakar Mayor Leovigildo Ruzol, told the INQUIRER that Enverga's effort and intention is laudable. "But what puzzles us is the involvement of Aumentado in the newly created task force," the mayor said.

Ruzol claimed that the woman has long been involved in forest destruction with her alleged illegal logging activities even when she was not yet the governor of the natives.

"As a matter of fact, she was the one who worked for the issuance of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) despite the protestations of her tribe, fearing that she would only use it for her illegal logging commitment," he said.

Ruzol said he has pending petitions in his office from Dumagat members protesting her alleged wanton abuse of the provisions of the CADC that allows the cutting of trees inside the area.

He said most of the at least 3,000 Dumagat members in General Nakar "are against the leadership of Aumentado. She only has few loyal followers," he said.

Fr. Pete Montallana, who does apostolate work among the natives, agrees with Aumentado. He showed the INQUIRER a statement supposedly issued by the Dumagat elders stating, among others, that they no longer recognize Aumentado as leader of the tribe because of her illegal activities.

Even Aumentado's *kumare* and fellow Dumagat also joined the protest.

"There are now pseudo-tribal leaders who are being used by big corporations and capitalists in the rape of the environment, and Thelma Aumentado is one of them," said Marylin Quirrez, national council member of the Katipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas national member-Quezon chapter.

### Proof

In all these accusations, Aumentado has only one word: "Prove that I'm really an illegal logging operator," she said, adding that she was being persecuted because of her deep concern for her tribe.

"I'm not an illegal logger because my logging activities are covered by a license from the government," she told the INQUIRER.

But a check with Armando Rutaquio, provincial environment and natural resources officer, revealed documents detailing the confiscation of 170,405 board feet of commercial lumber in the possession of Aumentado.

"That's not the way a CADC claim holder should operate. The tribe is being allowed to cut trees under the CADC agreement for 'traditional use' only, such as building a house, but it should not be in commercial volume," Rutaquio said.

A former community environment and natural resources officer, Ferdinand Hermano, granted Aumentado's group, the Pambayang Katipunan ng Sangguniang Katutubo, a temporary resource use permit for the cutting and utilization of some 800 cubic meters of trees

ILLEGAL/p.17

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# Taal's best—and oldest—embroiderer

**By Mei Magsino**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

TAAL, Batangas—For Taal's best embroiderer, the secret to her unique, lasting and sought-after embroidery lies not in the thread, nor in the needle or the cloth.

"To make the perfect embroidery, you have to fall in love with the craft," Lola Fabianita Padua said, putting the finishing touches to the embroidered tablecloth she has been making for almost a week.

Seventy-eight-year-old Padua, also known as *Lola* Fabing, started her love affair with embroidery when she was only 12 years old.

Embroidery was her only love, and yet for 66 years, she said, she has never grown tired of it, perfecting the craft that has been handed down to her by her mother, grandmother and great grandmother whose art has also been recognized as the town's best designs.

She amazes tourists who visit the town for her 20-20 vision. She wears eyeglasses only in the afternoon when her eyes get tired of embroidering.

"I guess it is destiny that I will grow old with my one and only love everyday," Padua said, referring to her embroidery.

When she started embroidering at the age of 12, she felt better off than her teachers who used to earn only P100 a month.

"That time, I earned P150 a week. So I didn't continue my schooling. I didn't go to high school because I was earning more than enough;" she said.

Now, she earns at least P1,800 per project.

She is now teaching her nieces the technique of perfecting the craft.

Padua also shows off her skill to students on field trip to Taal and tourists who visit the national heritage town.

Her regular clients include Patis Tesoro, Rene Salud and the members of the town and province's high society.

Padua still wears her *kimona* every time a guest comes to watch her work.

The town's tourism office has also arranged every travel group in town to include visiting the famed Lola Fabing's embroidery in its schedule.

And like a child proud of her work, she beams in every demonstration.

First, she draws her designs, mostly of flowers, on a wax paper, then she cuts out the designs, leaving only the lines of the drawings.

She then spreads the wax paper on a piece of cloth.

Afterward, she spreads the blue dye over the cutout wax paper. The blue design will be left on the cloth.

From that design, Padua traces with needle and thread.

The result will be one of Taal's unique embroidery.

Padua has her way of determining if the embroidery has been done by machine.

"If you cut a thread of embroidery and all of it goes with just one pull, it's machine-embroidered. With handmade embroidery, no matter how much you pull the thread, the design remains intact," she said.

Now on her twilight years, and with no children of her own to train, Padua is racing with time to teach her nieces and cousins' grandchildren the slowly vanishing art of embroidery known only from Taal.

"What's really disheartening is when I see the girls prefer texting and watching TV over preserving our family and this town's legacy of beautiful embroideries. But I can't blame them. I don't think I could make them fall in love with embroidery like I did," she said.

Taal's tourism officer Chato Bonsol, who also guides tourists to Padua's house, said embroidering is now included in the town's school curriculum to preserve one of Taal's greatest treasures.

"One of the Filipina patriots was Marcela Agoncillo. She was the one who embroidered the Philippine flag," Padua said.

"Embroidery is a part of our history. I just hope it lives longer than history."

MEI MAGSINO

LOLA Fabing Padua, 78, teaches embroidery to the young.

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# Illegal logging in Quezon: Who's to blame?

From page A16

or 200,000 board feet of lumber within the CADC area that covers 3,011 hectares.

Rutaquio said that every time they conduct an operation against illegal band sawmills in the area, the owner would always claim that the timber being cut is from the CADC area of Aumentado.

"We found that Aumentado had already exceeded by 84,403 board feet her allowable lumber volume," he added.

### Culprit

Aumentado, however, pointed to the DENR as the culprit in the widespread illegal logging activities.

This is partly true, according to Rutaquio. He said a former DENR official in the Reina area was found to be "in connivance" with Aumentado in the transport of her illegally cut lumber to Manila.

Last year, he said, an inspection team found that a certificate of lumber origin (CLO) was being sold to Aumentado by the same DENR official for at least P35,000.

"But the erring official has already been removed, and no more CLO is to be issued by the DENR in the area," Rutaquio said.

The participation of the Rotary Club of Lucena as the representative of nongovernment organizations in the TFKR has also drawn many questions as to why the slot was not given to Tipan, an active Church-based NGO in the Reina area.

### Not invited

Tipan, Enverga said, was "intentionally not invited because of a conflict of interest since it has recommended the present DENR officials in the province." He did not elaborate.

Tipan is headed by Infanta Bishop Julio Labayen, a close ally of Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes.

Enverga also tried to downplay last year's efforts of Op-lan GMA's (Gawing Malinis ang Agus) to curb illegal logging in the area. The multisectoral campaign was conducted by Tipan through Laba-yen and Nantes, who is perceived as a political threat to Enverga's camp.

The INQUIRER also learned that Rutaquio is a relative of Nantes.

In a phone interview, Nantes stressed that it is on record that Oplan GMA made a breakthrough in the anti-illegal logging drive last year.

"Governor Enverga's intention is praiseworthy, but the move could have been more comprehensive had he called for the participation of officials from the area," Nantes said.

Lawyer Asis Perez, head of the Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, said they welcomed the environmental protection initiative of Enverga.

"But it is more ideal if the different sectors in the Reina area will be given a chance to be involved in the effort," he said.

He pointed out that the task force could have learned more about the problem from the officials in the area.

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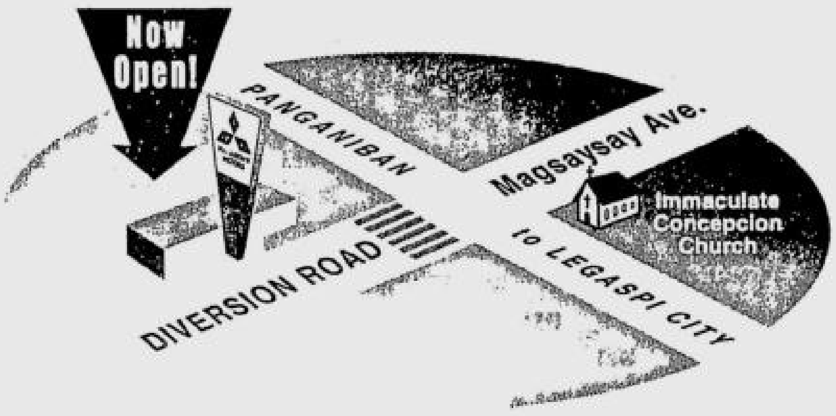

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# Bin Laden alive, says US intelligence

**ALIVE and well, Osama bin Laden is shown in an undated videotape aired by Al-Jazeera TV on Monday.** AP/AL-JZEERA/APTN

From page A1

Captured al-Qaida fighters, interviewed separately, gave consistent accounts describing an address by Bin Laden around Dec. 3 to fighters dug into the caves and tunnels of Tora Bora, the Post said.

"I don't think you can ever say with certainty, but we did conclude he was there, and that conclusion has strengthened with time," an unidentified official said in an authoritative account of the intelligence consensus, the report said.

"We have high confidence that he was there, and also high confidence, but not as high, that he got out. We have several accounts from people who are in detention, al-Qaida people who were free at the time and are not free now," the official said.

Citing civilian and military officials with first-hand knowledge, the report said after-action reviews, conducted privately inside and outside the military chain of command, described Bin Laden's escape as a significant defeat for the United States.

According to the report, a common view among those interviewed outside the US Central Command is that Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the war commander, misjudged the interests of Afghan allies who did not live up to their promises and let pass the best chance to capture or kill Bin Laden.

"We (messed) up by not getting into Tora Bora sooner and letting the Afghans do all the work," a senior official with direct responsibilities in counter-terrorism told the Post. "Clearly a decision point came when we started bombing Tora Bora and we decided just to bomb, because that's when he escaped . . . We didn't put US forces on the ground, despite all the brave talk, and that is what we have had to change since then."

Franks' chief spokesperson, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, acknowledged the dominant view among those interviewed but dissents from the Tora Bora analysis, the paper said.

"We have never seen anything that was convincing to us at all that Osama bin Laden was present at any stage of Tora Bora—before, during or after," Quigley told the Post. "I know you've got voices in the intelligence community that are taking a different view, but I just wanted you to know our view as well."

"Truth is hard to come by in Afghanistan," Quigley said, and for confidence on Bin Laden's whereabouts "you need to see some sort of physical concrete proof."

***Reuters***

# Sharon appears to soften stance on Arafat

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday appeared to soften his resistance to dealing with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in a possible new round of peace talks.

Sharon, who had pressed for a peace summit including heads of Arab nations—but without Arafat—said he expected the Americans to call such a summit for June, perhaps in the United States. In an interview with Israel TV, Sharon said a June summit was likely, and appeared to drop his opposition to Arafat's involvement.

Sharon said that who represents the Palestinians is "a secondary issue."

"It's not important to me which of them will be here," he said.

Sharon's spokesperson, Raanan Gissin, refused to say directly whether Israel, and Sharon in particular, would attend if Arafat was invited. Sharon repeatedly has said he no longer considers Arafat a peace partner and other leadership should be found.

Mohammed Dahlan, the Gaza security chief who's been involved in past Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, said the Palestinians are open to a summit, but said it must take a comprehensive approach based on UN Security Council resolutions.

"We don't want a conference to cancel 10 years of negotiations, but a conference to achieve a solution based on two states, Palestine and Israel," he said.

A Palestinian statement, prepared by the United States, that condemned suicide bombings and called for an Israeli troop pullout was to have been read after the second meeting between Arafat and US Secretary of State Colin Powell. However, the Americans withdrew it after the Palestinians insisted on guarantees of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with Jerusalem as its capital, a senior Palestinian official said on condition of anonymity.

***AP***

# Powell's peace mission fails

From page A1

tian President Hosni Mubarak, due to be held in a stopover on Powell's trip back to Washington, had been canceled.

Prior to the second meeting, top Arafat adviser Saeb Erekat expressed disappointment that Powell had not been able to engineer a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

### Worse

"The situation is very grave," he said. "I don't know if we have a Palestinian Authority anymore."

Despite US calls a week ago for a total military pullback, he said, Israel "is deepening the occupation. The situation is worse than it was seven days ago."

Inside Arafat's headquarters, guards reported that conditions had improved somewhat since Powell's first visit on Sunday. They said Israel had turned up the water pressure, permitted more electricity to flow and allowed limited deliveries of food, bottled water and medical supplies.

Still, Makmoud Issa, in charge of Arafat's security force, said that conditions in "jail would be better."

A security guard, a Kalashnikov assault rifle slung over his shoulder, reflected bitterly on the worsened situation since Powell's first visit last June, nine months after the start of the Palestinian uprising, or intifada.

"In June we had a little state, now we have a little building."

### Arafat's demand

Talking to reporters after the talks, a bitter Arafat demanded that the Bush administration and the international community act together to break his isolation. He accused Sharon of pursuing his offensive in the West Bank after promising to pull back.

"They are continuing their aggression against the Palestinian people," Arafat said in a darkened hallway of his battered headquarters after seeing Powell off.

Powell, winding down a 10-day peace mission that has produced few results, made no immediate statement, but in Jerusalem he announced that Israel had promised to withdraw troops from Palestinian towns and villages within a few days. He also bluntly admonished Arafat that "terrorism must end."

He said he would return to the region "to move ahead" with efforts to get peace negotiations on track. He said other US diplomats will remain behind to follow up on his talks and that President George W. Bush is prepared to send CIA Director George Tenet "in the near future" to promote security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians.

**"A CATASTROPHE," an eyewitness describes the second meeting on Wednesday of US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat at the latter's besieged office in the West Bank city of Ramallah.** REUTERS

Arafat said he was appealing for international help to end Israel's siege of his Ramallah compound.

"I have to ask the Bush administration, the international community: Is this acceptable that I cannot go out the door?" he said, his voice rising with apparent exasperation. Just next door, Israeli gunners peeked through half-opened windows and Israeli tanks ensured the confinement of the Palestinian leader.

"Who can accept this?" Arafat asked. "They are returning," referring to Israel's latest surge into Palestinian areas, after Sharon had said he would withdraw Israeli troops within a week from all towns and villages except Ramallah and Bethlehem.

Powell said he had urged Israel to ease its confinement of Arafat and allow him the ability to communicate with the outside world and his people. "It also seems a better course of action to allow him a better opportunity to communicate with the rest of the world," Powell said.

The secretary of state said any progress is difficult because confidence between Israel and the Palestinians is gone. "Both sides will have to shift from long-held positions . . . but we will never get to negotiations and we will never be able to move forward until we bring the violence down," Powell said.

### Powell's achievement

In at least one major respect, Powell has made gains.

He started out determined to push Israel and the Palestinians toward a peacemaking process, and he departs the region with a conference quickly taking shape.

Sharon said the conference probably would be held in June in the United States. A site has not been selected. Sharon's spokesperson, Raanan Gissin, said a peace conference was not a certainty. "The Americans think this is very important," he said.

Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and perhaps Morocco were possible participants, Sharon told Israel TV. An alternative is to have the Arab League represent the Arabs and possibly invite the European Union and Russia. The United States would be represented as well.

Powell has steered clear of embracing a formal ceasefire because such an agreement would be considered broken with every hostile incident. He said he was working on something like it without a "specific term."

Powell said a ceasefire was impossible to achieve while the Israeli military remained in the West Bank. He said the Palestinians argue they can't crack down on militants while their security apparatus isn't able to function in the face of the Israeli incursions.

"Ceasefire is not a relevant term at the moment," Powell said, adding that conditions may allow for that later "so one can have not just the statement of a cease-fire but the reality."

Powell said that while the Israeli pullback "wasn't as quickly as we would have liked, it is under way."

"I take the prime minister at his word that he is going to conclude it in the next few days or week or so," Powell said. He called the Israeli offensive the obstacle "that keeps us from moving" into a framework for peace negotiations.

But Powell also said he made it clear to Arafat that the world is looking for him to move beyond condemnations of terrorism and take action against militants and suicide bombers who attack Israelis.

"It's time for him to make a strategic choice and lead his people down the path of peace," said Powell, who refused to say whether he personally believed the Palestinian leader was ready to take action.

### Israel's flag

During the second Powell-Arafat meeting, an Israeli soldier briefly waved his country's flag from the window of a building that troops have occupied adjacent to Arafat's headquarters, countering a Palestinian flag suspended from the windows of the besieged compound. It was Israel's Independence Day.

Israeli troops continued their operation Wednesday in a Palestinian village inside Jerusalem's expanded city limits, removing residents from their homes and making arrests, witnesses said. Israeli forces had moved into a West Bank town and three villages near Jerusalem on Tuesday and imposed curfews as part of a high-security alert timed to Independence Day.

In Bethlehem, heavy gunfire could be heard near the Church of the Nativity on Tuesday evening, with flares and gray smoke visible over the compound. The Israeli army confirmed sporadic gunfire exchanges but said its forces had not entered the compound, where Palestinian gunmen have been holed up for two weeks. ***With reports from AFP, AP, Reuters***

# *Afghan war detainees literally in limbo in Guantanamo*

GUANTANAMO, Cuba—This leased US base at the tip of a communist country, washed by Caribbean breezes and peopled by a motley crew of Filipino or Jamaican workers and US servicemen, is about as close to living in limbo—or nowhere else identifiable—as one can get.

Especially if one is an illiterate Afghan tribesman plucked from the mountains of that country, put on one's first airplane ride and flown—blindfolded, handcuffed and earmuffed—halfway round the world.

So after three months of incarceration in a Fort Apache-type compound encircled by barren, nondescript hills and hemmed in by wire and American flags, it is unclear whether many of the detainees here really know where they are.

"I would not necessarily assume that they know where they are," said Brig.-Gen. Rick Baccus, commander of the joint task forced assigned to oversee the 299 captives of the war on terrorism. "For security reasons, I don't necessarily want that—for them to know where they are."

Occasionally, a seagull alights on the wire guarding the camp, tipping them off to the fact that the sea lies just beyond their set of hills. The lack of vegetation and rainfall could suggest a desert. The camp's wooden watchtowers suggest something out of US frontier days.

Soon after the detainees began arriving in January, Red Cross officials informed them that they were in a place called Cuba. That somewhat surprised the US military, which apparently had not planned on telling them.

"In the beginning, we didn't tell them because we thought we were not allowed to," said Specialist Steve Reitz, an army Arabic translator at Camp X-Ray. "Then we found out that the Red Cross had been telling them."

"They understand that they're not in Afghanistan," Reitz said.

Not that anyone is certain that the word "Cuba" means a great deal to many of them.

"Our detainees range from being illiterate to having college education," said Lt. Col. Bill Cline, the commander of Camp X-Ray.

"Can they all find it on a map? I can't answer that."

Many might not believe US officials if they told them they are in Guantanamo, a bit of land on the eastern tip of Cuba leased by the US armed forces since 1903 and since 1957 in defiance of Fidel Castro's communist government.

Some detainees think they are being lied to.

"Some indicate that they were lead to believe what they believe," said Muslim Chaplain Abuhena M. Saiful-Islam, who has had perhaps the closest contact with the detainees.

As for the location of Guantanamo—which is not taught much in American classrooms, either—"they don't know the meaning, other than what they were told."

In the beginning, many thought they were actually in the United States, Saiful-Islam said, and that talk of Cuba was a charade.

It may be particularly disorienting for those who already have a somewhat tenuous grip on reality—the seven detainees being monitored for mental health problems, including two with severe psychoses.

Not that one has to be psychotic to be a little disoriented by Guantanamo, which also has two names: "It's actually known as 'Gitmo,'" Army spokesperson Maj. Lee Reynolds pipes up helpfully.

Add to that the fact that the detainees don't know how long they will be held, what will happen to them and when, or if, they will ever go home, and you're left with a curtain of obscurity—something that hangs in Gitmo like the humid air.

Wrestling with the question of whether US labor laws apply to the low-paid Filipinos and Jamaicans recruited to work here—they don't—Marine Capt. Joe Kloppel notes philosophically, "In some ways it's like US soil, and in some ways it's not." ***AP***

# *30 int'l activists share Arafat's pain*

JERUSALEM—Inside the shelled compound where Yasser Arafat is holed up, a group of 30 international activists share the burden of his siege—watching television, talking politics and sending out a stream of press releases from their mobile phones.

Many in the group are now on first-name terms with Arafat, have received birthday presents from him and get briefed daily by the man they say they are helping to protect.

"The sanitary conditions are deplorable and we are worried about the implication for our health," said Paul Nicholson, 55, a veteran British anti-globalization activist who runs a farm in Lekeitio village in Spain's Basque region.

Ranging in age from 21 to 70, the foreigners come from Britain, France, Ireland, Brazil, Switzerland and Belgium. There is also one Israeli.

They have no running water for bathing or flushing the overflowing toilets. No new food supplies or drinking water have been delivered in five days and they are on strict rations.

"For breakfast we shared three apples among 30 people and each person gets one small bottle of water a day," Nicholson said.

Nicholson was among the original group of about 50 foreigners who marched through the battle-torn center of Ramallah on March 31, dodging bullets and brazenly making it past the tanks into the compound.

About 20 foreigners left the compound earlier this month. Those who remain must cope with the ominous presence of Israeli tanks and snipers.

"There has been a lot of tension. You only have to look out a window and see a sniper pointing at you. It has been a very serious situation and we were expecting to be attacked." ***AP***

# Consumers win; Meralco assets report rejected

From page A1

recess and after conferring for 10 minutes, ruled in favor of removing Tuason's testimony from the record.

### No more basis

Pete Ilagan, president of the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms, then asked the ERC to immediately dismiss Meralco's petition.

"Since there is no more appraisal report, Meralco's petition no longer has any basis," Ilagan said.

Meralco's proposed unbundled rates would mean an average increase of P1.12 centavos per kilowatt-hour. If the proposal is approved, residential customers will pay an additional 55 centavos per kwh.

Unbundling refers to itemizing the total monthly bill into generation, transmission, distribution, supply, metering and universal charges.

ERC Chair Fe Barin said the Asia Appraisal's report was not the only basis for considering Meralco's unbundling petition.

"We have to consider so many factors and the possible implications of this matter," Barin said.

### Meralco explanation

Meralco lawyer Manuel Torres said the firm would submit a motion for reconsideration about the ERC ruling on the appraisal report.

"We are upholding that report, but we will explain this in detail through our motion," a dazed Torres told the INQUIRER.

In a statement, Meralco clarified that the May 18, 2001 report preceded the June 26, 2001 effectivity of Republic Act No. 9136 (Energy Reform Act) and ERC's Oct. 30, 2001 Uniform Billing Requirements, which specified the use of 2000 costs.

"A new appraisal was not feasible given the required submission of the unbundling in less than two months, or by Dec. 26, 2001. Due to the exigency, the May 18, 2001 appraisal report was used," Meralco said.

The company said the appraisal was based on assets as of Dec. 31, 1999, revalued at the peso-dollar rate of P51:$1 as of Oct. 31, 2000.

Based on assets of P67 billion, Meralco claims that its RORB has dropped to 3.1 percent. The company is seeking increases in its rates to raise its RORB to 11 percent.

Under the law, a public utility is allowed an RORB of up to 12 percent.

An RORB is net income divided by the assets used in distributing electricity. A bigger asset base means a lower RORB.

### Questions remain

Questions about how Meralco computes the value of its assets remain. The Energy Regulatory Board (ERB), the ERC's predecessor, ruled in February 1998 that Meralco was bloating its assets by including a hospital, computer center building, theater and firing range. The ERB based its decision on a study conducted by the Commission on Audit.

The COA also claimed that Meralco even treated income taxes as part of its operating expenses, thus resulting in a reduced net profit for the company.

Without the ineligible assets in computing the RORB, Meralco actually posted an RORB of 21.04 percent, or 10 percentage points beyond the 12-percent ceiling, according to the COA.

COA's findings prompted the ERB to order Meralco to refund its customers P11 billion that the company overcharged from 1984 to 1998. The ERB also ordered Meralco to roll back its rates by 18 centavos per kwh.

But Meralco refused and obtained a restraining order. It then filed a suit with the Court of Appeals against the ERB and won. The case has been elevated to the Supreme Court.

# Bush endorses Filipino vets bill

**From page A1**

counterparts.

This was the message relayed by US Veterans Affairs(USVA) Secretary Anthony J. Principi to President Macapagal-Arroyo during his courtesy call yesterday.

Principi, who arrived here on a two-day visit, also assured the President they will "look at their budget" to raise existing cash benefits for veterans and their widows.

In the past, a budget deficit had always prevented the passage of the bill. Principi's support is crucial because in 1998, a previous Veterans Affairs secretary testified in the US Congress against the Equity bill as he claimed it would cost $1 billion annually.

"I am glad to say that the administration of President Bush is moving forward on this issue," Ms Macapagal said later.

She said the veterans welfare issue was in the joint communiqué she and Bush signed last November during her visit.

She also recalled how she unleashed her temper (*"katarayan"*) during her meeting with US Veterans Affairs officials.

"Some of these will require legislation. They're hoping to pass the legislation this year," Ms Macapagal said.

Early this month, US Senators Daniel Inouye (Democrat-Hawaii) and Ted Stevens (Republican-Alaska), also promised the President they would help in the passage of the Equity bill. ***(Questions and answers on the Equity Bill on Page A5.)***

### Inouye's bill

Inouye chairs the US Senate defense appropriations subcommittee.

He authored Senate Bill 1042 or the Filipino Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, which seeks to provide medical care to Filipino veterans with nonservice-connected (not combat-related) ailments at veterans' medical facilities and clinics in the United States.

Under current US law, such benefits are limited to Filipino veterans residing in the two countries who have service-connected disability or ailment.

If the US Congress approves the bill this year, qualified Filipino veterans in the Philippines would receive a hundred dollars monthly USVA disability pension. The proposed amount was envisioned to match the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO)'s old age monthly pension of P5,000.

Also in the Philippines, over 50,000 veterans and about 10,000 Fil-American veterans would have access to outpatient clinics for all ailments, including those that are age-related.

### Modernizing veterans' hospital

During his call, Principi also vowed to seek US aid for the modernization of the facilities at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and to raise the veterans' annual grant on health care.

He said they would organize a medical mission with the PVAO for veterans who live in Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon.

Others present during the courtesy call were Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis, PVAO Commissioner Artemio Arugay and US Ambassador Francis Joseph Ricciardone. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

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# GMA: No to Jancom deal

**From page A1**

"I think it would be prudent that we really not go ahead with it until we are very absolutely sure that it is not again the people who will bear this burden," Acosta said, adding that the Jancom contract is a potential Westinghouse case—referring to the mothballed billion-peso nuclear power plant.

But Ms Macapagal said there was no rush to build the Jancom incinerator right away.

She said Metro Manila's towns and cities already had their "interim" garbage disposal systems, citing the landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal, and the "eco-centers" in Smokey Mountain.

She said any incinerator that would be built—"by Jancom or Pro-Environment or whoever it may be"—would be a long-term solution.

The President also said she was not averse to using garbage incinerators, which environmentalists claim pose serious health and environmental risks.

She recalled her visit to Singapore last year at the height of Metro Manila's garbage crisis. She asked officials how they manage to keep their country "very clean."

"I asked (them) what they do with their garbage. They said, (we use) incinerator (technology)," Ms Macapagal recalled.

Whether the government can afford "expensive incinerators" was another question, she added.

The environmental group Greenpeace lauded the President's decision.

"We welcome such reaction. We were expecting her not to sign based on her previous action of signing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act," said Francis Dela Cruz, Greenpeace toxics campaigner for Southeast Asia.

### Ex-presidents

Acosta and Rep. Augusto Baculio, chair of the House ecology committee, said that ex-Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada should be asked to testify about the alleged P390-billion overprice in the 25-year contract.

Their names were dragged into the inquiry when Ernesto Banawis, Jancom's vice president for corporate communications, told the committee why the firm's contract had not been signed in the two previous administrations.

Banawis asserted that Ramos and Estrada had not actually rejected the contract. He said Ramos merely "passed it on to the next administration" to consider, and that Estrada "just ignored" it.

Baculio asked Banawis whether it was true that Jancom had offered a 20-percent commission to Estrada in exchange for approving the deal, as INQUIRER columnist Neal Cruz had written. Banawis laughed off the allegation and said his firm never talked with Estrada, only with his flagship projects adviser Robert Aventajado.

This prompted Acosta to move for the committee to invite Ramos and Estrada to testify. He was seconded by Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, who said that those who did not agree with the Jancom contract should not be forced to pay for its services.

Villar said that Las Piñas had its own efficient and less-costly garbage disposal system and did not need Jancom.

### Cronies' fingerprints

At the hearing, Bayan Muna secretary general Teddy Casiño asked the committee to investigate the alleged cronyism in the Jancom deal.

Casiño said the Jancom scandal "has the fingerprints of (First Gentleman) Mike Arroyo's golfing buddies and President Arroyo's favorite law firm, Carpio & Villaraza."

Antonio Carpio, now an associate justice of the Supreme Court, was at different times presidential legal counsel and then counsel of Jancom's foreign partner. Casiño also said Jancom owner Toby Gan was a frequent golfing partner of Arroyo's.

### Harsh words

The harshest words in yesterday's feisty hearing, however, were reserved for the Supreme Court's third division. Jose Luis Yulo, chair of Pro-Environment Corp., a rival of Jancom, assailed the high court's decision upholding the validity of the Jancom deal as a perfected contract even as it left to the President the question of whether the contract was disadvantageous to the government or not.

"The judiciary is now the imperial corruptor," Yulo erupted in the hearing attended by many pro-environment groups opposed to Jancom.

Yulo said the third division lied when it said in its decision that Carpio was not a legal counsel at the time the project was bidded out and contracted.

Yulo said Carpio was Ramos' presidential legal counsel when the project went into bidding in 1996 and that the SC made it appear that the bidding happened only in 1997.

He said Carpio later became legal counsel of Jancom, "so he was counsel to both parties."

He added the third division again lied when it said that only the President's approval was necessary to implement the contract.

Yulo pointed out that the BOT law said that the approval of the President and the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordinating Council are required.

"The third division is lying, they should all be impeached," Yulo said, to the applause of the environmentalists. The division members are Associate Justice Jose A. R. Melo, who wrote the Jan. 30 decision confirmed in the April 10 resolution, Jose Vitug, Artemio Panganiban, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, and Carpio, who did not take part.

But Yulo said it was not enough that Carpio had inhibited himself. He said the Jancom case should have been given to another division.

Yulo said Jancom and its "cohorts," including Carpio, were using the judicial system to "force the President to sign" the contract.

### Scary ruling

Lawyer Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, a representative of the pro-environment group Bantay Kontrata, said the ruling that only the President's approval was necessary was "scary."

"This decision is emasculating the executive. We will have an executive department dependent on the judiciary later on," Chato said.

Chato said the SC had "placed the President in a corner."

Acosta described the ruling as a "Pontius Pilate" decision. "There are escape clauses in the decision . . . that only add fuel to the fire of confusion and unclarity," Acosta told reporters.

Jancom's Banawis was no match for the environmentalists who came in full force to the hearing. At one point, Baculio asked Banawis: "Why is it that so many are against you?" To which Banawis said: "Because they want to get the contract for themselves."

Baculio said that because of the SC decision, the committee had to "make a stand" on the Jancom contract.

Other groups opposed to the garbage deal also criticized the high tribunal.

### Unconstitutional

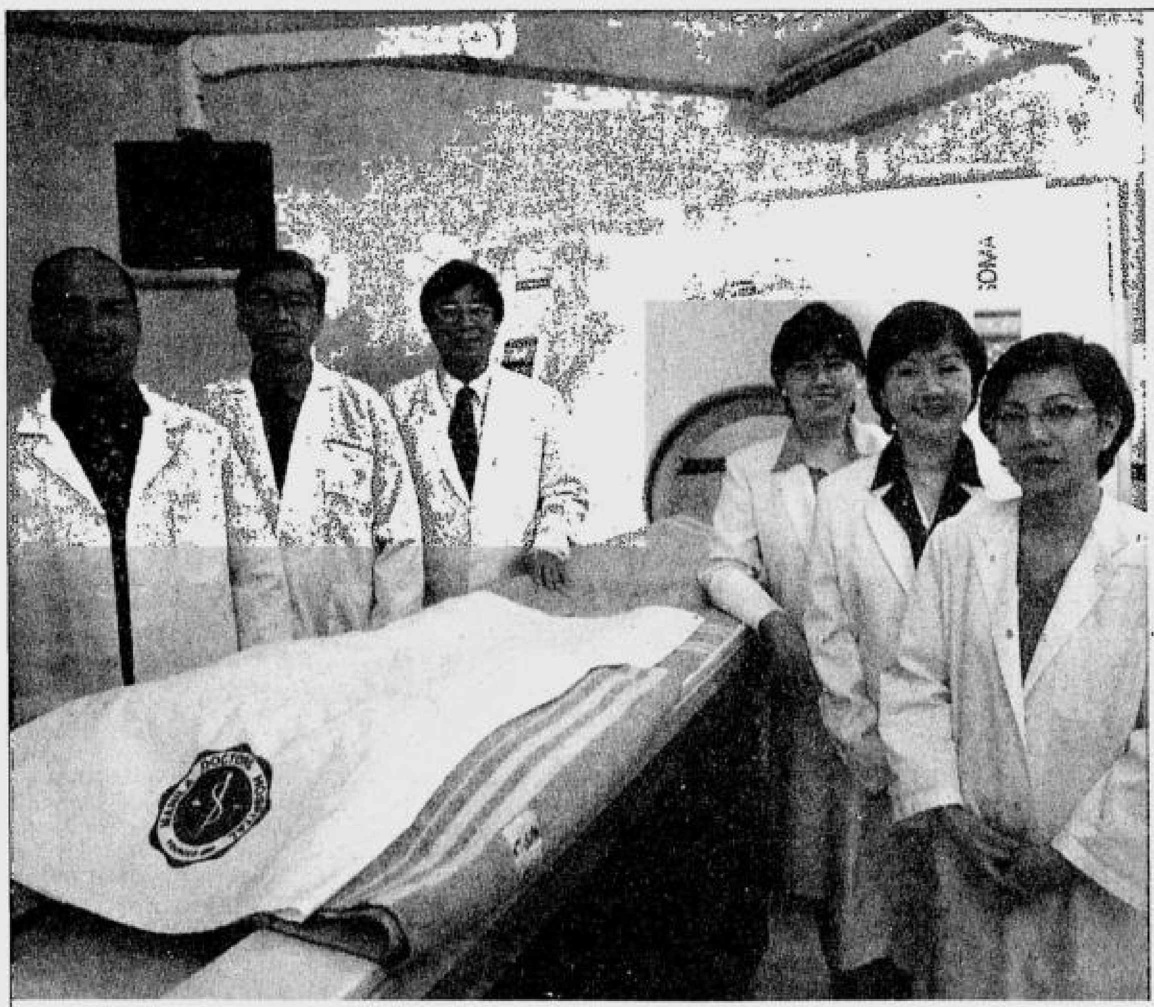
Francis Dela Cruz of Greenpeace told the INQUIRER that because the high court ruled that the ban on incinerators was not absolute, Jancom's compliance with the Clean Air Act would not be ensured.

"This doesn't guarantee (that) Jancom won't use incineration that would be harmful to the environment or that its incineration technology will comply with the Clean Air Act," Dela Cruz said.

Gideon Javier, spokesperson for the Citizen's National Network Against Poverty and Corruption (CNN-APC), called the SC decision "unconstitutional."

"It is unconstitutional because it amends the BOT law, which only Congress can do, by declaring that Neda approval is not necessary for the validity of the contract," Javier told the INQUIRER.

He also revealed that MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos had told Neda officials that they "should not scrutinize the contract." ***With reports from Gerald Lacuarta, Alcuin Papa and Agnes Donato.***



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Republic of the Philippines

# Department of Science and Technology

Science Education Institute

# DOST Secretary announces 4,451 new S & T Scholars

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro announces the names of successful examinees in the 2002 Science and Technology Scholarship Examination held on 3 February 2002 in 119 test centers all over the country.

Four thousand one hundred eighteen (4,118) examinees qualified under the Science and Technology Scholarship Program of Republic Act 7687 (formerly Program A) while 333 passed under the DOST-Science Education Institute (SEI) Merit Scholarships (formerly Program B). The former program awards scholarships in 4-5 year baccalaureate degrees and 3-year technician courses while the latter provides 4-5 year BS scholarships in priority S&T courses.

A total of 22,454 examinees belonging to the top 5% of Batch 2002 high school graduates took the competitive examination.

The S&T Scholarship Programs are part of the DOST SEI's strategy to identify and nourish talented Filipino youth in science and technology who can be the future front liners of a competent workforce that will bring about more breakthroughs in Philippine S&T. As incentives, the qualifiers will receive school fees; book, transportation and uniform allowances; monthly stipends and group health insurance, among others.

Each qualifier will be notified about the scholarship award and will be advised on the schedule when he/she, with a parent, must report to SEI for NCR qualifiers or the DOST Regional Offices/Provincial Science and Technology Centers for qualifiers in other regions. He/she should bring the following requirements: original and clear photocopy of Birth certificate and Parents' 2001 Income Tax Return, accompanying parents' 2001 Community Tax Certificate and notarization fee.

Names of potential qualifiers with question on their citizenship or income declaration will be withheld for further evaluation.

Same lists are also available at the website www.science-scholarships.ph

## 2002 RA 7687 S&T SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFIERS

continued from yesterday...

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BALLARAN, KRISTIAN MOPERA
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MADALAG, FALWELL DAN NALANDAY
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MALAGA, VANESSA GUILLERMO
MENDOZA, JOVEN AGUDO
MIJARES, DAISY JOY JAURIGUE
MIRANDA, MARIAN PACHES
MOLO, LITO MONSERATE
MONTOYA, KEVIN GALINDO
NARAGDAG, KRYSTAL LYN DELA CRUZ
NATONTON, LORELYN MAY PUGA
OLARTE, LURYLEE BERGANTE
OLIVARES, OLIVER BANTAYONAN
PABORADA, CONNIE BLANZA
PACIENTE, DYOANNA ADOLFO
PADRONES, WILMAR AGUIRRE
PALEC, MAE JOY S.
PAMA, SHEM PALOMERO
PAREDES, ANNABELLE ANIB
PEDROSO, MARILOU DE JUAN
PENAFLOR, MICHELLE COMPLIZA
PUERTO, ARTURO JR. PEDROSO
QUIJADA, MARY BERNAROSE PINEDA
RAMOS, FRECHEL LYN CABRERA
RECODO, JOEY REMAN VICENTE
REMOLLATA, AMY GRACE LIMA
RIVAS, RIZA BETITA
ROJO, MICHELLE TUGADO
SEDIGO, DIONAVIE NEQUINTO
SELIS, MARY GRACE SIBATON
SIBONGA, MAY FLOR JAYME
SILBOR, JONAS, CALDERON
SIRUE, RHEA SAMONTE
SITCHON, JONATHAN NARCISO
SOQUENA, ARTHUR CANTORES
SUBONG, JOYCE CABALLERO
SUMAYO, MA. FEBE GRACE CONSERVA
TABASIN, RANIEL TUMACAO
TABOADA, MARY GRACE JANOLINO
TACATAN, LEVE JUN TABIAN
TALE, RODERICK TABLADILLO
TALHA, KEITH CONDE
TAN, TEDDY JR. DEOCAMPO
TANOUE, GLENNA JOY TAVIOLO
TANQUERIDO, LYLE ROSE MATULAC
TASIC, RALPH JOHN BARRIDA
TATON, EULA JOY TAMONAN
TORMON, RASHELLE MAYORMENTE
VILLACASTIN, LOVELY PANIZA
VILLARAIZ, GENEVIE SALAO
VILLARUEL, FRANCE NOELLE BANO
YASA, SHEILA-MAE B.
YBERA, MARY JOY PORTILLO
ZARCENO, MARY XANDIE RESTON

*NEGROS OCCIDENTAL*

ABDON, GREGORIO JR. DELIZ
ACALING, NEPHI E.
AGUSTIN, RAYMUND YTIENZA
ALO-AD, JHON KENNETH LASHERAS
ALOBA, EUGENE JAMIS
ALVAREZ, JENNY LYN TIA
AREVALO, NELMAR GUINTIVANO
ARGEL, DINA MARIE BANGILAN
ARIBAS, LORY MAE ESTACIO
ARNIGA, MONALIZA PORRAS
BALING, HAZEL DELA CRUZ
BANASING, MARILYN ARANA
BARCOMA, ARIANE JOY GAYATINA
BARRO, FELAMAY DELA VEGA
BASA, MA. JESSA MAGBANUA
BATICBATIC, JERSIE MAE BUNDA
BAUTISTA, JOVAN GONZAGA
BAUTISTA, RYAN AL AYUBAN
BAYLON, CHARRY CELES
BERNAL, ROJAN ORTILLO
BIADOG, DANILO REMO
BITOS, ANTONIO JR. JAMAYBAY
BOLEN, JANICE AGUILAR
BORBON, MARITES ESTRELLA
BUISON, ARLENE CHINA
CAAGOY, CHARENE JANE MALLORCA
CABARDO, TEODORO JR. REAL
CASIANO, RAINELLE ANNE MALVAS
CASTRO, JAN FELIX JUETA
CATAGUE, CHRISTINE GILVERO
CEBALLOS, DESIREE CARREON
CELAJES, LOZEL GOCO
CIOCON, ESTRELLA ROSARIO FEGIDERO
CIUDAD, BERNADETTE RHODES SIASON
CLARO, FLORENCE CATHERINE ORTILLO
CONSING, MARY ROSE DOROTHY ORCISO
CORDERO, MARICHO DEDASE
CUENCA, MICHELLE SUSAN
CUYOCA, JULIE ANNE MONTEPIO
DAGUNO, REY MORALES
DAYON, JOHN PAULO TALAVERA
DAYON, LESLIE PEARL GUADALUPE
DE LA PENA, MARI RUVIE PADRINAS
DE PADUA, FRANZ RYAN CUYA
DEL ROSARIO, IAN DEXTER GONZALES
DELFIN, ROY TUNAY
DERLA, ERLIE LOZANO
DESCAYA, MAY SANTILLAN
DETABLAN, AIRAM TANOSO
DIAZ, IAN OFIANGA
DINEROS, SHEILA SAMSON
DIOGENES, ROWIE JOHN DECENA
DIONELA, ELIAS TUANTE
DIONGZON, EVERT BRIONES
DUENAS, APRIL MARTIN DIAMANTE
ENRIQUEZ, IRENE GRACE MENDOZA
ERARUM, CHERRY PINK TAYUBA
ERLANO, JOHN LEO JUAYONG
ESCUADRO, KAREN SARAH PAHILANGA
ESIO, JENNA MAY THERESE PO
ESTRELLA, JANICE CELEBRAR
EULOGIO, EMMANUEL PANTANO
FERRER, JENNYBELLE FERNANDEZ
FLORES, DEMSEN SAMULDE
FRANCISCO, ROVELYN TALDE
FUENTES, AUBREY AMATO
GALVAN, RODA BAW-ING
GARDE, LYNNE ABEGAIL DELFIN
GELAGA, APRELL MAHAN
GOCO, EARL EDWARD LIM
GONITO, DENMARK ALIPO-ON
GONZAGA, MEAH LUMANOG
GOROY, MARK ANTHONY SALIDIO
GUILLERGAN, EUNICE JOY BARLIZO
GUINABO, JEFRAIN PACULANANG
HORTILLOSA, SHELLAH MAE ESPINO
IBANEZ, RICKY CARABALLE
IBAO, LOLLIE GRACE DETOYATO
JAENA, ANNALYN ZAMORA
JARDELEZA, STEPHEN JOHN PEDREGOSA
JIMENEZ, JARVIE V.
JISON, SHALOM MACASILHIG
JORDAN, KIM VAFLOR
JUMATAY, JENSEN JAVIERO
LAGRADA, ANTHONY BO-O
LATADA, DARELL PADERNA
LAURICO, JOVY TRAJABADA
LEGASPI, FERDINAND BULANON
LUMAPAS, JUNREY VINALON
MAGDALERA, PIA MARIE JAVELONA
MAMING, AMJIE LOVE ROBLES
MANGUBAT, ANA MARIE PUNTAL
MATTA, ROSELYN DARIAGAN
MEDES, JEANGRACE BIONA
MENDOZA, ROGEMI LUMAUAG
MERCADO, MIEL IRENE ZABAY
MIRASOL, LUCILLYN JOY GARNICA
MUEDA, JUNIS KRISTOFFERSON GAYAYGAY
NACIONALES, A.ESTELA ENCARNACION
OPAO, RAQUEL ALMARIO
ORTEGA, EMILY JOY VILLANUEVA
PAGUNTALAN, SALYMAR SALVADOR
PALMARES, DENISE MICHELLE JARIOL
PAMPOSA, VLAYNE VILLO
PESTANO, CHRISTINE CANDIA
PINASAS, RANDY CANSON
POBLACION, MARICEL MOLINA
PONCLARA, CECILIA FRANCISCO
POSTRADO, JOSEPH BRYAN SELENDRON
QUIATCHON, JOSE RYAN LIRAZAN
QUITCO, JUDSON RAY AGUIRRE
REBUTADA, RAFAEL PORTUGUESE
RIVERA, RODNEY JR. OMBIGA
ROCA, NICHOL JUN CABANA
RODRIGUEZ, ROEVELYN FRANCO
SABILLO, EDFEL VILLAREAL
SALAPAR, KENNETH JARIOL
SALON, JAPHET AGUAS
SANTILLAN, JAKE SISON
SARROZA, JUANO PAULO BEARNEZA
SEMILLANO, CHERY MARIE GENIT
SISON, JAMES PAGLOMUTAN
SOBERANO, REBECCA LUBRICO
SOLIDUM, ROMEL ANDRES
SORALLO, DESIREE MAY LIMPOT
SORROSA, JOSE CARLO MONTANEZ
SOTANA, RONALYN GALVE
TAGANILE, BEAME MEDIODIA
TAMESIS, WALTER GREG GANZA
TAN, ALZARINA TANGENTE
TODING, ROCK S.
TOLOSA, FAITH JOY GATILOGO
TULLO, RAZEL CHRISTINE ARNAIZ
TUPAS, RENATO JR. TONCUA
VALLADARES, MAE JANIS SELLADO
VEDRA, JANINA ALUNAN
VELASQUEZ, CRISTOPHER GICA
VILLALOBOS, VILZON QUIZON
ZARAGOZA, PRECIOUS RAYLIRD PENAFIEL

*REGION 7*

*BOHOL*

AGAD, EVELYN AGAD
AGUHAR, ANTHONY VALMORIA
AJOC, IVY LAGANG
AMPO, JOHN-CONDOR BERSABAL
ANGELIA, JONATHAN REGUYA
ANTIOLA, NOEL NARAÑA
ANUB, MARY JESANY BONGCAC
ARAIZ, DENNIS BULAGA
ATUP, CLAUDIO JR., LAGAPA
ATUP, SERGIO SABIJON
AUZA, FILL GRACE GURREA
BAAY, CLARIZA OREVILLO
BAGUIO, LIGAYA VILLONES
BAYRON, MA. TESSA CABUSAO
BELANO, ZOBEL ENDEREZ
BLANCO, ANNALOU LAAG
BUCIA, REY BUTCH LABENDIA
BUCIO, RENELYN FELISILDA
BUNTAG, JULIFE ARBITRARIO
BUTALID, GIDEON ADRIEL ESTOQUE
CALATRAVA, KAREL HONCULADA
CANIZARES, JENIFER BENIGNO
CATLI, MARIA MITCHEL ROBANTE
CEBALLOS, MARIE FE BONIOR
CIMAFRANCA, ADELYN LLANOS
CURIT, RAMON PHILIP MASCARINAS
CUSTODIO, EMILYN HALASAN
DAVILA, FEDELINO JR., BERSAMEN
DE LOSO ROSE MAY DELA PENA
DELIG, COLETA EGMILAN
DIGAL, ARLEEN TERIOTE
DIGAL, MARCEL PATAYON
DINOY, CESIL ENOC
DUMACLAPAT, PRESCIL REY TAPISPISAN
ENAD, FERNANDO BONAJOS
ESTO, ALDINETTE CAPATAN
ETONG, MARICEL ALBISO
GALEON, DOROTHY JANE CABASAN
GANUB, MELUNA YBANEZ
GARCIA, EMMA LIMBAGA
HORA, MANOLO PONDOC
IGHOT, JED BORELA
JALA, MELISSA FAJARDOZA
LABESORES, ANEEBE SHEER CELADES
LAWA, AL JOHNSON S.
LIM, JAN MICHAEL THEODORE VALDEZ
LIMBAGO, MARJORIE MALIG-ON
LINDO, ROJER PADRINO
LLEMIT, DENNIS GALENDEZ
LUCERO, EDEN VERONICA MEJORAS
LUZANO, VAL GILBERT MUTIA
MANDIN, ROLANLIE GONZALES
MANDING, MICHAEL FLOYD ABUCEJO
MANIGQUE, MAROBE BIBERA
MASLOG, JOEL M.
MATA, PAULA GRACIA ADLAWAN
MILLA, NIMFA CENABRE
ONOD, ARCELLI BOCTOTO
PACATANG, CHYLENE PUERTA
PAGUIA, CHARITY TIMOSA
PANONG, MARIA. MUTYA PINEDA
PATAC, JEANETTE EREDIANO
PEREZ, RENANTE BONCALES
QUINLOG, JUBERT REY POLINAR
ROBLES, BASILITO M.
SALANG, AILEEN TAJANTAJAN
SALAZAR, JEREMIE ALIMPOLOS
SALINGAY, JILL PALMA
SALVACION, ANALEE C.
SARMIENTO, RUTH ABUEVA
SIGNE, MELCAN IBARRA
SOLIS, EMEBERTO JR. DALAYGON
SORIA, JEROME P.
SUMAMPONG, RUBEN BATOON
SUMINGUIT, JOELBERT NALASA
TAGAYTAY, GISELA MARIE PLAZA
TUANGGANG, CRESALBERT OMBO
TUBA, ROGELYN ADIONG
UDTOHAN, JUNEL SANJAJO
UY, MARK CENTILLAS
VALENTOS, ROWENA JEAN ORENDAIN
VENTERO, RALPH HERBIE VENCILAO
VITOR, JULIETO DUALLO

*CEBU*

ABANO, JEDUS LAWRENCE OTERO
ABELLA, GLENN BEJASA
ABELLANOSA, FRANCES LOUIE CORTES
ABELLANOSA, ZANDER VICTOR CABALLUNA
ABERION, PHILIP LAWRENCE GO
ADVINCULA, MA. KATRINA GUY
AGAPITO, DENNIS LAPUT
AGRAVANTE, GLAIZA CHOY
AGUIRRE, BREN ANDREW PALAD
ALBARANDO, GERALYN CAMARILLO
ALBERO, JEFF LESONDATO
ALFORQUE, JOSE MARI LOUIS BERALDIZO
ALINO, JULIETA MIRAFUENTES
ALLEGO, EUNICE JANE TURA
ALMARIO, BERNARD VELEZ
ALPAS, APRIL ANN MAGNANAO
AMADEO, LIEZEL SALINAS
AMARILLO, JEAN MIRYL LLERIN
AMISTOSO, RICARIDO CUI
ANDALES, JEANDALYN LECCIONES
ANUSURIYA, KRISTINE JOY ALINSUG
APUYA, RUDIVILLE CABUALON
ATAMOSA, FORLYN LUMAMBAS
ATILLO, KATRINA
AUM, NOIE SINADJAN
AUNZO, CHERIE MAE YBAS
AZARCON, CHARYL ASILOM
BACUS, JARED CABRILLOS
BADAYOS, REBO BASOC
BAGAS, ARGEL NINO ABAS
BALBERONA, MICHELLE BARQUIS
BALINGCASAG, MARGARITA ROSAUPAN
BANCALE, RODERICK ASPACIO
BANDOJO, RUDY JR. TRINIDAD
BANO, NONITO CABALLERO
BARAQUIL, JOHN FLORA
BARROT, JOVANNE LOQUINARIO
BASILIOTE, ARNEL POLANCOS
BELONGILOT, RAE CHELLE DANO
BENITEZ, IKE PALMOSA
BERIDO, ERNESTO TESALUNA
BORNEA, CYD THERESA GERALDEZ
BREGENTE, LEAH SANOPAO
BUGHAO, GRECIA ARPON
CABAHUG, JELA MARIE WAGAS
CABANTUG, ARMANDO YTING
CABIGAS, MARVIN ARIES HIDALGO
CABRILLOS, CHERRYL SUQUIB
CALABROSO, JESU EMMAN SUERTE
CALAGO, JOWILLYN DERESAS
CALDINO, MARIA ELENA GUMAGAY
CALIMPON, IVY LALUNA
CALVO, JAMES ARNOLD A.
CAMAY, MARY ANN OLARAN
CAMAY, VIRVE JOY BAYARCAL
CAMPO, BRIAN JOHN SAMBILAD
CANADA, MARK VINCENT DAITOL
CANETE, SHYRELL MAYE QUIJOY
CANTERO, IVY CAPANGPANGAN
CAPERO, JOHN VINCENT PEPINO
CARANGUE, DINNA GALLETO
CARANZO, GIDEON RAY MONTECLAR
CARBALLO, JUVIJANE LIBRANDO
CARITERO, SEDRIX ENTOMA
CARTUCIANO, MELISSA RUBIN
CARUANA, REYMUND GABUD
CASTILLO, BERNARDINO SIMINING
CATARATA, JHON PHILIP BATERNA
CATUDIO, NINA CARMINA OCA
CEBALLOS, JOSEPH QUIJADA
CENERA, ALFRENIDO BERNARDO
CODINERA, ROMEO YGOT
COGAY, RHEA GLAIZA BATHAN
COGOLLODO, ELIJAHMAR DELA CRUZ
CONCEPCION, NINO CARLOS GENTERONE
CORILLA, RONALD LOPEZ
CORONADO, MARIVIC GABALES
CORTES, MARCONINO SALVADOR
COSE, JENELYN CORDERO
DATAN, EMMANUEL GARBO
DELA CERNA, JONATHAN CABELLON
DINGAL, REYNAN DINOYO
DIOLA, VIRNALYN VILLARIN
DIONGSON, ANALISA COMPANERO
DUASO, CARMEL MARIE BUHIA
DY, CATHERINE BAQUIRAN
ENCONTRO, MARY CHERYL SABERON
ENDICO, MARRICAR CARREON
ENRIQUEZ, ERIC RENA
FABRIGAR, MARJORIE DERESAS
FLORES, ROSE MARIE B.
FRONDOSO, MA. VELLA LABISTE
GABUTAN, CRISPIN JR. MERCADO
GANTUANGCO, CHESTER TARAZONA
GESTA, JOHN VINCENT ALOYAN
GIL, EMMIELYN SARCOL
GOCOTANO, HANS HERBERT GALO
GUNO, IAD CIALIM SURALTA
HUBAHIB, EFFIE ALOLOR
ITUMAY, SOCRATES OPELINIA
JACABAN, JUNAR ORNOPIA
JAMOLA, ESTHER RAJA ARANDA
JAO, MARY MAE RIAS
JARINA, APOLINARIO JR. BAUSIN
JAYME, ROMIL UDTOHAN
JIMENEZ, FRITZ SILVA
JUANGA, AIZA MARIE MORENO
JUDILLA, MARIO CONGSON
LABARES, REYNANTE SAYAGO
LANOJAN, ELNIE MARIE MANACAP
LAYASAN, JOHN LENSEL CIMAFRANCA
LEMOSNERO, JACEL BATAAN
LENDIO, ROCHELLE ALBANO
LEPON, LEVIE JANE GOMEZ
LERASAN, JUNDRELL MACACHOR
LEYSON, GRETCHEN P.
LIBO-ON, MARVIN JOLIGON
LIBRE MARK JOHN LOIS
LOPENA, ROBBY MARTIN BANGCOT
LOPEZ, RONALD VILLEGAS
LUAGUE, CHARLENE EBALLES
LUALHATI, CHARITY MAE R.
LUBINO, JAN KARLO HISOLA
MALAZARTE, MICHAEL NICHOLAS DAYMIEL
MALUYA, MARIA DENNESSA BACALLO
MANACAP, CONRADO JR. LIBOR
MANCHO, ANA FATIMA ARCHIVAL
MARANON, RODEL BORRES
MARAPAO, MAXINE PESIDAS
MARIGOMEN, DOMINGO JR. SARITA
MARINAS, MARIE ANTOINETTE GINGCO
MARQUEZ, RONALD RODRIGUEZ
MARTINEZ, JEFF ARABIS
MASONG, DICKIN OROT
MATILLANO, MARY HOPE TORILLO
MENDOZA, JULIESA MERCADER
MICAROS, DEXTER JOHN GIANGO
MISCALA, MELVIN ARMENION
MONARES, JACKIELOU SIENDO
MONTES, FAUCE MARC PATALINGHUG
NATAD, IVY OMAMBAC
NAZARENO, MARIA FE CONTINETA
NIADAS, GIOVANNI YRAY
NINAL, ALLAN APARECE
OBIEDO, ROLANDO VELARDE
OCHIA, OFELIA GENAYAS
OSTIA, CRISPIN BACOL
PACA, KHRIS ALLAN BARICUATRO
PADILLA, ADELITA LENDIO
PAGUIBOT, LEOFE PARAME
PALANG, CEILO ALIN
PALAPAR, CHAMBERLAIN VILLANUEVA
PALO, IAN REY CAMPOMAYOR
PATALINGHUG, PATRICK GIL
PEPITO, ALVIN ACASO
PIEDAD, EMELYN BITONGA
PILAPIL, CYRIL DEAN FERNANDEZ
PITOGO, RACHELLE ANNE TIBON
PLANDO, ROCHE ARENAS
PLANIA, AILEEN GUIPO
PLAZA, MARIA ERA CORAZON CAPALA
POGADO, NAYGIELOU VIDAS
PONSICA, FATIMA EHRELYN YAESO
PUERTO, LIGAYA MANZANO
PULVERA, JESSICA SAS
PURACAN, KARLA JANE NOVELA
QUIJANO, JAN ABRAHAM S.
RAMOS, ERIC AROPO
REGALA, RYAN PINOTE
REUYAN, JANICE DAYDAY
RICAPLAZA, CHRISTINE BONDESTO
ROMERO, REMELYN ESTELLA
ROSACENA, JENNIBETH YASE
RUBIA, MIGUEL RODNEY OLA-A
SABAL, APRONIANA
SABAL, JEREMY DELOS REYES
SALAS, AVEGAIL CANONEO
SANOY, MELGRID Q.
SEARES, ORCEL ASALDO
SEGUISMAR, CHRISTINE AUDREY CANADA
SEMBLANTE, NELSON EBORDE
SEVILLANO, ERIC JAMES ABASOLO
SIA, DAISY JANE CONGSON
SILVA, LOI GAKO
SILVANO, NOEL COMELING
SOCO, ANALYN ARO
SUAREZ, ZAMANTHA NAVARRO
SUGAROL, LEAH SANOSA
SUMAYANG, ARNEL DELA TORRE
SY, AILEEN GLENNE PO
TABAR, MARIA CELZA PASAGUE
TABOADA, FREDERICK VIASON
TABOADA, JON CHRISTOPHER BULAYER
TABOTABO, MICHAEL MACASAOL
TAN, JAE YONGCO
TAN, MARIA LYNNETH AIZZA MAHOLAON
TANAJURA, ANGEL MANAYON
TANGOAN, ELMER DOMINIC CALONIA
TAOK, KRISTIAN IRVIN OMILGO
TEANO, EDGAR EQUING
TEJERO, WINDELL SHANE ABALDE
TEMENA, SUZETTE MARIE F.
TEVES, BEVERLY FARRAH LOZADA
TINGA, SERGE PALER
TOMBOC, KYJEAN ANINON
TORRES, EMELITO EMPUERTO
TORRES, MARICHO SILVA
TRANI, IMMANUEL JOSHUA VELEZ
URSAL, EMMANUEL VINCENT YNOT
VERA CRUZ, MARIE JO ROXAS
VILLACORTA, HELENE JOY JO
VILLAMORA, REY GIOVANNI LABAYNO
VILLAR, JOMAR B.
VIZCARRA, MARIETTA ABAN
WONG, MERCY ABINES
YBANEZ, MARIA VICTORIA RIVAS
YBANEZ, VANESSA FAITH VILLARUZ
YLANAN, MARY ANN PEGARRO
ZAMBRANO, MARIVIC GEOLIN

*NEGROS ORIENTAL*

ABSIN, CLAIRE CABALIDA
ALAGA, EFREN CORNELIA
ALBANO, ZELLA FAYE MORADILLA
ALONZO, JAKE WILFRED ALBURO
AMPARADO, STELLA ANGELA PADUA
AUSTERO, DARREL SOLAMILLA
BACLAAN, JERRY ALEGUE
BUSMION, KRISTINE NILLAS
CABCABAN, ELWIN VILLAFLORES
CABEBE, JOVEN RAMOS
CAMERO, MARY GRACE DELA CERNA
CANETE, ELEAZAR S.
CERIALES, MAUREEN LACBAY
CHIA, CORATHON AMOR AMANTE
CORPUZ, SAMUEL ALVIN POSPOS
DELUBIO, MARY ANN VILLAFLORES
EBON, MAHRYVIC CAGAS
FERNANDEZ, THEODORE MAURO ATIENZA
FUENTES, LANNY AGBONA
GUTIB, VOX ADRIAN MACKINESTER
IBARRA, PIRL LOMOCSO
INDAB, RODERICK MILITANTE
MARTINEZ, MARY ANN THONETTE BUSTILLO
MORALES, JANE DORIS OMNOS
ONDONG, LYLE SAMUEL TAN
OUANO, DEBORAH ANNE BAHINTING
OZOA, AUBREY MIGALLEN
RAMOS, GLENDA LIZ ALGARME
RELATOR, MELDER MURCIA
RETES, MERIAM ROSE TANO
SAGUBAN, GERALD MARI BUNAO
SALA, MARLA KRISTINE INIT
SAYCON, ARCHIMEDES BAROT
SAYRE, GARRY DELMO
SEIT, KRISTINE MAE ROCAMORA
SIENES, ROSELYN SAPANSA
TANADOR, JOSEPH TINDOC
TANATAN, REY DOMINGO FERRER
TOLEDO, MARY ROSE FATIMA UBAG
VIOLETA, PAUL VINCENT V.
ZETA, HOWARD BERNADEZ

*SIQUIJOR*

ESLIT, MARJORIE
GAPOL, CYRIN OGOC
JUMAWAN, DONAH MAE ROSE BUCOL
LAPINIG, LAYRA B.
LARANJO, MARIANNE BULANGIS
LIGUTOM, JOAN ROSE SIERRAS
QUIBOL, JERSON PAALISBO

*REGION 8*

*BILIRAN*

APACIBLE, SHEILA DAY ROSALES
BUSTILLO, KENWARD EUGENE BACALLA
ESTRADA, ANDY TORADO
GARCIA, RYAN CALDERON
GAVIOLA, MELANIE RUTH NEBRIDA
GERVACIO, TEOFILO III HAYAHAY
GONDA, MARIA CATHERINE BORJA
MASALIHIT, ROSITA LEQUIN
MATNOG, PAUL JOSEPH BACALLA
MODINA, ANGELITA ARANETA
MURALLA, GREATHATCHER GAVIOLA
OLEDAN, PHILIP ARIANE CABAS
ROSENDAL, JANICE MEREZ

*EASTERN SAMAR*

ALEGRE, MARK PHILIP DANQUE
ANG, MARY ANGELIE BARDAJE
APURA, ERLINDA CAMORA
AYON, NEMIA MAGNO
BALEOS, MA. MELUCINA CANILLAS
CAMPOTO, LARRY TRABOCO
CAPILI, BONNA MAY AMOYO
CORRE, GRACE MAGDALENE CALIWAN
DALINA, BERNARDO JR. BARRION
DURAN, ALEJANDRA GRACE ABAYAN
ERO, ESTEBAN II ESCANA
GENISTON, GRETCHEN WANESSA GALES
LARA, ALLAN CABALLA
MACHICA, MANILYN AYHON
OPLADO, YUENN CASPE
PAEZ, GUIAN FRANCO S.
PAGASPAS, SONNY BOY RAMOS
PALADA, JENNY FLOR OPADA
QUIAL, JOHN ALBERT BORATA
QUINAO, JAIME JOSE DITALO
QUINTUA, VERLYN AILEEN ROBIENE
VILLAREAL, FRANCIS C.

*LEYTE*

ACEBEDO, ROLDAN ESPEJO
ADVINCULA, GLAIZA SUDARIO
AGRAVIADOR, MA. RALINE PALAS
ALBARICO, JOSEPHOS BENTOY
ALBERO, RUTCHELL PURCA
ALEGRO, CHEKEE CABURUBIAS
ALETIN, MARTIN FRANCIS PULMA
ARADO, LEONARD MANONGSONG
ASENSI, TIMOTHY JAMES OCUBILLO
ASIS, FERNANDO OMAWAS
BACTOL, MARIA DONNA ARIZO
BADANA, ARIANNE CUMPIO
BADILLA, MARIA RUTHLEEN RUIZ
BALDOS, RAQUEL GUZMAN
BALMES, LOUELLA MARIE SEMENIANO
BALOTITE, JECYL LOUIS CASTILLO
BAMAN, MARIE VIVIENE CATACIO
BAQUILOD, VANESSA MAURILLO
BARBON, ARNEL PENARANDA
BARDIAGO, CATHERINE RIBO
BASILIO, MARY ANN QUINVERLY YU
BATALLA, JERLYN NACIONAL
BETACHE, EMMIE LOU GATURIAN
BONA, PORTIA MORETO
CAGOYONG, JENNELYN PACUBAS
CAMINONG, ETHEL ABANAG
CANAS, VINCENT DAVE REMANDABAN
CANETE, GENEVIEVE ESTUDILLO
CASINILLO, FIEL CATIPAY
CAYONDA, MELANIE BENTORINA
CERENA, MILAGROS LINDE
CEZAR, SOFRONIO JR. MOLETA
CHUA, JAY BRYAN PABELONIA
CLARO, MARY JANE ADONIS
CRISOSTOMO, DANTE JR. GAMBA
CROSA, JOYCE, GAMBA
CRUZ, JORGE RAYMUND CINCO
CUENO, JOYCE HOPE ALIPADPAD
DACALOS, WINSON ONG
DE VEYRA, DJULIA MONTANA PATINO
DOTOLLO, MARCIAL JR. MORASTEL
DUMAGUET, ARNOEL NICOLAS
DY, ANTONIO YANG
ERCILLA, DIANA OBERO
ESCALA, HERMOGENES CALICOY
ESTACO, GIN KENNETH MALBAS
FABILE, ANGELYN VALDEZ
GATELA, RACHEL LIGAYAN
GOFREDO, RENATO JR. MANAGBANAG
GONZAGA, CRISTY DOYOLA
GONZALES, LENNIE LUCERO
GUINAREZ, JOESETTE RIVERA
HOLASCA, KENNETH MICHAEL CUMBES
JUANIR, BEVERLY ESCOTOTO
LARA, ARNOLD BACALLA
LAURETO, JOSEPHINE ALMOROTO
LAW, TONY KA KIT CAVITE
LEGO, ROLANDO JR. CAPON
LIANZA, SHERYLL ANN AGUDERA
LORA, JEFFREY ALMADEN
LORETO, IDA BLANZ SEVILLANO
LOYOGOY, NOEL ALPINO
LUNA, EMILY ASOMBRADO
MAGALLANES, MARICEL NUDALO
MALASABAS, MARIECOR INDINA
MANJERON, MARINEL OMILA
MANTUA, SHEAR JASUB QUIROS
MARAPOC, DENISE FRANCES ROSE YAP
MARAYA, MARY LIZ SUAREZ
MATE, MA. CHRISTINA SABILA
MAZO, MARLON AVELINO
MEDALLA, KEN BRYAN ADVINCULA
MEDINA, RICAVIR FLANDEZ
MERCADAL, ROSALITO ROSALEJOS
MORILES, KAREN CARDIENTE
NARITA, JENNIFER FLORES
NAVALATAN, BLESSYL MARIE LUEGO
NERJA, EDUARD AGUILLON
OJACASTRO, FREDERICK MANALO
OMEGA, EDWARD INTAN
ORBETA, JUVY ALDRICH BACHAO
PASTOR, WINDEL LUMANTA
PAZ, ARSEMARIE PRECIADOS
PEDRERA, GILLIAN FAYE DUMAGUIT
PEDROSA, MA. REGINA BAGUILOD
PEREGRINO, RENZ MARC OLINO
PEREZ, IGNATIUS ALFRED BAYLON
PEREZ, RYAN MICHAEL NOGUERAS
POLIC, LOWIE SALGADO
PORTULA, MA. ROSELLE CAMASIN
RAQUEL, MARLON BIGNOTEA
RESTOR, ROEL ANGELES
SABIT, MARK MARVIN REAL
SALAZAR, MARK DELA PENA
SALGADOS, RONNIL DAHONOG
SEMBRANO, WARNY FABROA
SEVILLA, VICTORINO JR.
SILVIA, JAYSON PEDERE
SONGALIA, AMAPOLA CAPILAS
TABANG, EDUARDO JR. CERDENA
TABON, RONALD SEPTIMO
TAGALA, ELIZABETH ABANO
TAN, KAREN HOPE ROJAS
TEJONES, GEMMA GARGANTILLA
TIMBAL, DAHLENE MAE PASAGUI
TISADO, ENRICO PERFECTO ARRIBAS
TOLIBAS, ANA CRYSTEL TAMBA
TONIDO, BENSON ESTRERA

*WESTERN SAMAR*

ABARRO, ROLLY QUITALIG
ALAVATA, MARK ANTHONY P.
ALEGA, ANGELICA ROSE MARTINEZ
BELAS, LEO MONTABON
CRUDA, JEZRHELL PEPITO
EGANA, ANGIE CAJEFE
GILBUENA, ANTONIA FABILANE
JUMAGDAO, EULA FRANCES FIGUEROA
QUILAPIO, CAROL D.
REBALLOS, RENO DACULA
TABARANZA, DINAH FE BURCA

*REGION 9*

*BASILAN*

DIAZ, MA. CHRISTINA JEAN POTENCIANO
DONGALLO, MARICAR NAMOL
JUDAYA, YASSER MOLEJE
MORALES, ARWEN ABAYON
PALACAY, JAYSON MARK ALABATA
SIASON, VINCHAIL AUXTERO
SULAYMAN, RASHINA ATTIP
ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
BARTOCES, HENRYLEN COSTANOS
VELEZ, CONEYVIC MAE SANSON

*REGION 10*

*BUKIDNON*

AGUSTIN, RITCHELLE MAE SOLIVEN
BANTIQUE, FAY KENNETH CHRISTY JABOL
CAHUCOM, DIANA ROSS TILANDUCA
CAMASO, CHARLOU VERADOR
DE RAMAS, JASPER JAVIER
DELEONIO JEROME RYAN VALDEZ
DULHAO, JIMUEL MARTINEZ
ESCOSURA, JESCEL MAE PORQUEZ
EVANGELISTA, MARGIE LYN MASABA
GALAMITON, MYLENE TE
GONZAGA, IRISH JOY CAILING
GUILONGAN, JUN ART BINONGCAL
HO, GENEVIEVE SALA
JAYME, JOHNRIE LIBATON
LA VICTORIA, MICHEL CONRAD BINAYAO
LIBAGO, LAVERNE MAE SABIO
LIM, MAJA KRISTIN VALDERRAMA
MALLI, SITTIH NAFIZA NALITAN
MANDAGWAY, RONA CORDOVA
MELIG, ROXANNE APRIL ACABA
OLAGUIR, RONALD FELISILDA
PANCHO, JOVIELYN PAKIWAG
PILOTON, REX JOSEPH REA
PUMATONG, CRISTY AMOR ANASCO
QUIDET, DUANE MARK ITALIO
QUINO, MARY ANNE FLORES
QUITO, JANE DELA PENA
REMEDIO, CLARISSE ARMIE CABASE
REPE, RIANNE PACATANG
RODICOL, LEWEN VAN MANIGOS
SARCAOGA, RONALD LABELLA
TOMONGLAY, AILEEN ABARQUEZ
VASQUEZ, PEXIE SUE KARYLL BETACURA
VILLAZORDA, CLIFF EARL LEYSON

*CAMIGUIN*

BARON, RUEL MAGTAJAS
BONITA, NINO DALIGDIG
CABRERA, RICHARD JR. MIRANO
EXCHAURE, RAYMOND JADMAN
PACULOB, EDMUND BEDRO

*MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL*

ABO-ABO, CLAIRE PONGGOT
ALINDAJAO, ARMILNINO TANGGAN
AVILA, ROWEL SUCO
BAJADE, JADE RYAN DELAYRE
BALUSTRE, ELSON BABAYRAN
BANGUIRAN, ROLAND SOMOZA
BERGADO, ABBELYL LACIA
CALUPAZ, ROBELBERT BANGUIS
DUHAYLUNGSOD, JOMAR LARA
ERENO, BRYAN DONNEL PALOMA
FLORES, PHEOBE LEOPOLDO
GUMERA, DAISY GEE PONSICA
INTONG, ELVIS SENIT
JATENCION, EVELYN ABO-ABO
JERUSALEM, ROSIE ROSA
JOYNO, GLENN DAMAS
LAGAS, DIOVANE BOAQUINA
LAMANILAO, GERMARIE YBANEZ
LUMASAG, BEVERLY LUMBATAN
MACALISANG, EDEN EVAN SASHA APAO
MACAMAY, JUNRIL SALVACION
MAISOG, RUCHELLE CASTILLO
OMAGBON, JEMECA BASIT
PABATANG, RUZZEL AMBAG
PASTRANO, LOWELLA MAE TORINO
SACEDA, JOHN LU FLORES
SISCON, LESTER TAGUPA
TIU, HERBER AGUNOD
VIRTUDES, KEITHLEEN MAE MUMAR

*MISAMIS ORIENTAL*

ABCEDE, JELOMIR VALLEJOS
ABOC, EDMUND PAQUIBOT
ACUNO, ROXAN LOU J.
ALFECHE, RONDEL B.
ARRO, JEFRED ANTIGUA
BACATAN, DIONEVIE DADOLE
BAGAIPO, MELVIN BAHIA
BAGUIO, MARK KHIM LAGRA
BALURAN, CZAR ALEXANDER L.
BANDIVAS, ZERIKA MOLLANIDA
BATONGHINOG, ALDOVANDREW HERHEN TACANDONG
BOLLOZOS, KATRINA ALEXA MAGRACIA
CAGAMPANG, RHAYAN MHAY CABREZOS
CANETE, LEILANI TAMBASACAN
CANOPIN, CHRISTIAN EDNER GARCIA
CARPENTERO, MARIA STELLA GIANGAN
CASINO, CHARLAINE CACULBA
CASINO, ORLEAN MAE EMBODO
CATULPOS, RONALD SISMOAN
CHONG, EAGIE KIM NALDO
COLICO, FROILAN PINONGCOS
DAGONDON, JUNREY JAVIER
DALAY, RAYMOND PAASA
DALING, JOBERT DOCDOC
DE TORRES, JESREEL KING GANAY
ECTIN, WARREN PALAMINE
EDULLANTES, ARIAN MAGADAN
ESTOQUIA, AILEEN TIMOGAN
FILIPINAS, JAE LORD DEXTER CARAS
FORCADILLA, PERCIVAL JAUG
FRONDA, MARY GIL ALBARICO
GALLEROS, CYRUS JAY GABITANO
GAM, RICHE O.
GO, GAY AMABELLE GULTIANO
GUIALANI, CHRISLAM OBSIOMA
HERNANDEZ, FRANCES STEPHANIE VALMORES
ISRAEL, AILEEN MATOTO
JOLOYOHOY, JAY-AR CASTILLO
LABANON, MELALYN BALACUIT
LACBAYO, JOAN PASCO
LAGUE, SHEENA MAY CIMAFRANCA
LAID, KENT VINCENT GICARAYA
LASTIMOSA, JOHN MICHAEL BADILLA
LIM, KENT LOMONGO
LORONO, MA. LORENA GALACIO
MAGSACAY, NIEL JEAN MADJOS
MANTO, LORELIE GALORIO
MERIN, LORIE CARL IMAN
MIEL, MA. TERESA BARBAJO
OCLARIT, MICHAEL REMIGIO
ORTIZ, LADY GIOVANNE FARRAH BALACUIT
PACHECO, DALE BRYAN RAIZ
PAEZ, LORJIE MEL SASAM
PALAC, JUDE ANDREA EVE E.
ROA, MA. SHEILA MAE PAIRAT
ROSALES, MARIA LOWELLA VALLE
ROSEL AARON PAUL BUHISAN
SANDIGAN, ROSELLBRIAN BORNIDOR
SANTOS, KRISTIAN GANZO
SEMBLANTE, VERNIEL DATOY
SERNA, ALVIN ISLA
SIBONGA, CHRISTOPHER MANLEGRO
TERANTE, HANNAH LEI BINGAT
UY, JAN MERYLL LLORICO
VALLENTE, TRISTAN FEBRA
VILLEGAS, PRINCE CASSIDY REAL
YAMIT, NEIL JOSEPH CAYETUNA

*REGION 11*

*COMPOSTELA*

ACUSAR, MARY FE SABELLANO
ANAYO, REX MASING
BASULTIN, REINATE S.
CASCABEL, EVELYN ONDE
CHANCO, ALONA VILLAMOR
DAISOG, LYNA MIE C.
DAPAING, EMMAN REY F.
DOROTAN, THYRONE JOHN AGNATA
IBANEZ, CHARY BOLACOY
JAKOSALEM, JEANNELOU BABIERA
JUALO, ALONA LINGUTAN
LEONOR, ROSEMARIE HUGO
MINOZA, ROELLE JOHN PONTE
ROBIN, TIERRA COLOR MANGARON
ROZ, ROMILYN GAMIL

*DAVAO DEL NORTE*

ANDOY, ARNHY S.
APARICIO, AMPARO JEMIDA
BOLLO, CHRISTINE TULEN
CO, NOEL BANSIG
COMENDADOR, JEZREEL T.
CONCON, ELLEN RELOBA
DIMAS, HAZEL AZARES
DIVINO, HARLENE FERRER
DOLORES, ROEL RITCHE DUENAS
DORLONES, JAZEL MELITON
DULDULAO, ADELYN GLARINO
GEMOBIAGON, ROLANDO JR. D.
GEOLIN, GEORGIE LLABADO
ISITO, HANNAH LAGUNA
JUMAWAN, FRANCIS JAY BEJERANO

# 'I don't think it's West Nile,' says DOH chief

From page A1

West Nile Fever Infection (WNFI).

Officials agree that the children, aged 3 to 15, were afflicted with Japanese B encephalitis, which results in inflammation of the brain. The disease is transmitted by mosquitoes.

For now, Dayrit and other health officials said it was farfetched that the children were hit by WNFI, a rare disease associated with horses.

"I don't think it's West Nile. It was just mentioned (by the local doctors). If you consider the cause a virus, it's more important to consider the Japanese B (virus) because it is really here and it has similar symptoms as the West Nile," Dayrit told reporters in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, during an inspection of reported cases of toxic chemical exposure.

### Goats and horses

The Larrazabals are known to breed horses and other animals inside the clan's MR compound in Barangay Bantigue in Ormoc City. City veterinarians had taken blood samples from the horses and goats bred inside the compound for laboratory testing.

The children started feeling sick a day after several ducks were found dead floating in a dirty pond inside the compound on April 6. They were brought to the district hospital with high fever and sore eyes.

Four were later transferred to the Larrazabal-owned Cebu Doctors Hospital (CDH) in Cebu City. All except Marcos II, who is now dependent on a life-support system, had been released from the CDH.

Dayrit pointed out that Marcos II got "encephalitis and the other patients got fever and other things."

"So, what we have to do is to . . . find out what's the cause. You have to get the cerebro spinal fluid and blood to find out what the virus was, if in fact it was West Nile," the health secretary said.

### Minimal

Asked whether the disease could pose further danger to the people in Ormoc, he replied: "I think minimal." He explained that the disease could have been confined to the Larrazabal compound.

"In this case, it's a cluster of cases. You might say it's an outbreak in this compound . . . a focal epidemic, it's not widespread," he said.

An April 16 report from the Department of Health office in Region VII also downplayed the possible outbreak of WNFI.

In their report to Dayrit, Regional Health Director Rosarion Marilyn S. Benabaye and Regional Epidemiologist Juanito N. Zuasula Jr. said the Larrazabal children "may not be suffering from WNFV infection as what the media are currently insinuating."

"Based on the investigation conducted, and the signs and symptoms presented, the children may be suffering from a totally different disease entity in which a virus is a possible culprit," the report said.

The report also noted that the Larrazabals' attending physician, a pediatric infectious disease specialist, "does not believe the children's infection is due to WNFI."

### Text messages

Ormoc City Mayor Carmelo Locsin urged the media and owners of cellular phones in the city not to spread exaggerated reports about the incident so as not to create panic among the people.

"We ask the media to do some responsible reporting because not doing so will do us more harm than good," said Locsin in an interview over Cebu City-based radio station dyLA.

He said text messages circulating in Ormoc City were advising people not to go to Barangay Bantigue. He stressed that the people should not panic because the rare virus was not contagious.

The mayor reiterated that there was nothing to worry about because the situation was under control. Dr. Adrian Veloso, city veterinarian I, said fumigation and fogging activities were being conducted at the MR compound three times a day to get rid of the mosquitoes.

Locsin said the Larrazabals were still staying in the compound, including the 11 children who had earlier fallen ill. The family is aware that the virus cannot be transferred from one person to another, according to the mayor. ***With reports from Jani Arnaiz and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

# 'If they want to remove my picture, that's fine with me'

From page A1

age of the late President Diosdado Macapagal on the obverse side and that of his daughter's oath-taking on the reverse side.

The BSP wanted to honor the late President for restoring Independence Day to June 12, when Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo declared the First Philippine Republic. It said it decided to add the incumbent President's image because she was swept to the presidency by People Power II.

### Initial printing

Suratos said the BSP had begun the initial printing of 5 million pieces of the new bill. He said the removal of Ms Macapagal's image would mean that the bill would not be circulated starting June 12, as had been planned.

Asked whether the BSP could still take out Ms Macapagal's image from the bill, Suratos said the Monetary Board would have to approve the move.

"We are already in the process of printing and the plates take time to create because these are hand-crafted," he said. "Our printing office started doing the plates last year as soon as (the bill) was approved by the President."

Suratos said he did not know who had made the recommendation to feature the Macapagals on the P200 bill. He said what was initially planned for the reverse side was an image of People Power II, and not particularly Ms Macapagal's oath-taking.

The BSP plan to put the images of Ms Macapagal on the new P200 bill immediately drew criticism.

### For heroes only

Sen. Juan Flavier said Ms Macapagal did not deserve such an honor, which, he pointed out, was reserved only for heroes and martyrs.

He aired the suspicion that she would use the bill in pursuit of her supposed plan to run in 2004.

But BSP spokesperson Fe de la Cruz said this should not be interpreted as electioneering on Ms Macapagal's part because she had not even declared her candidacy for the next election.

"In the first place, all notes in circulation already bear her signature," De la Cruz noted.

According to Suratos, it is not the first time for the central bank to feature a sitting President on legal tender.

He said that from 1975 to the early 1980s, the central bank circulated a P5 coin featuring the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The coin has since been demonetized.

Former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Estrada were featured on commemorative coins and notes.

Aquino was featured on a gold coin delivering a speech before the US Congress in 1986. On a P2,000 bill, Ramos raising the flag in Cavite was on the reverse side and Estrada taking his oath on the obverse.

De la Cruz also said the BSP would introduce through the new P200 bill a so-called "blind recognition system," in which a tactile intaglio print would be found on the upper left corner.

She said the P200 note would bear the image of Aguinaldo's house in Kawit, Cavite, where the first Filipino flag was raised. This image was taken out from the P5 note.

Earlier, Buenaventura said the BSP "felt there is a gap to be filled by a new P200 bill."

He said a 200-denomination was also circulated in Mexico and in the European Union.

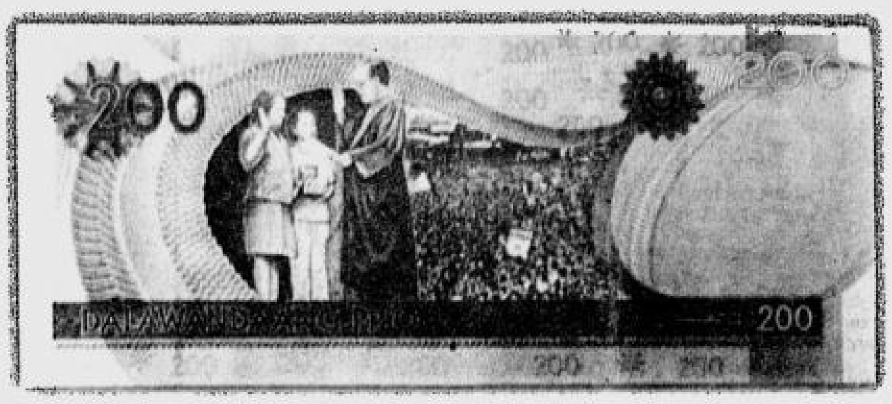
Buenaventura pointed out that it was Diosdado Macapagal who was responsible for changing the date of the independence of the Philippines from July 4 to June 12.

But in history books, Macapagal, the country's ninth President, is remembered as the pro-American leader who succeeded Carlos P. Garcia, who launched the "Filipino First" campaign.

Macapagal, who was President from 1961 to 1965, was responsible for lifting controls against importation and against the repatriation of dollars by multinational companies.

It was also he who allowed the peso to devalue to P3.90 against the dollar to draw foreign investors. This allowed the reported doubling of the earnings of multinational firms at that time, like Del Monte.

A history book also noted that because of the entry of foreign firms, Filipino companies encouraged to operate during Garcia's term were put at a disadvantage.



**ON JUNE 12, P200 bills will be in circulation showing on its obverse side the ninth President of the Republic, Diosdado Macapagal, and in its reverse, his daughter Gloria.**

# 'Snail mail' took 100 years

From page A1

postmark is illegible, was sent by a woman named Jane to a Miss Riley of Richmond Road, Heaton Mersey, northwest England sometime during Edward's reign between 1901 and 1910.

Katy Russell, 31, recently found the card when she collected her morning mail.

It read: "Dear Joyce, Thank you so much for the letter. Cousin John came for tea (Sunday). Florrie and I took him to the car about 11 o'clock (shocking wasn't it)."

"I hope S. E. and W are better. I am sorry they are not well and also Alice Ann. It is a pity so soon after the holidays. With much love to all Jane."

A spokesperson for Consignia, Britain's postal operator, said it was highly unlikely that the card had been lost in the system all this time.

"The most likely explanation for this is that the postcard was part of a collection and was discovered at a property, hidden away somewhere," he said on Tuesday.

"Someone may have thought it was still current and put it in the post. All our systems have been updated, we have moved buildings, there is virtually no chance of this being found hidden in our system." ***AFP***

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**continuation...**

LACIERDA, CRISTINA PENA
LAGUNZAD, MERRY JOY INAMARGA
LARANJO, ROBERT LEE SALVA
MACROHON, KRISTINE TUBA
MADULARA, MARBY CERVANTES
MANLANGIT, KAREN MAE QUAIAMCO
MENDOZA, EDIL MAE BARRERA
MENORIAS, EMILY SISNEROS
MIGUEL, MOON LEE MARGATINEZ
NAMUAG, CARYL SALAS
PABRIGA, MARY ELENGRACE NUDALO
PARACUELLES, ROSELYN GALINATO
RAVARA, JULIE ANN MARIE ABONITA
REYES, REYMON MONTOYA
TERAZA, RICHEL TAGAWA
VALDEZ, GIE-ARR REGUINA
VILLA, GLENN VILLAVER
VILLANUEVA, JUN REY S.
WAGAS, HARROLD KING LORCA
WONG, EBONY MILES ROSELLI LAGALA

***DAVAO DEL SUR***

ABELON, INA PAULINE MA
ANGSINCO, GARRI ORFRECIO
ARANEZ, HECTOR CANETE
ARBOTANTE, JANELLE ARIANNE SUICO
BACUS, JOEMELLE JALBAY
BALASON, LORD RAPHAEL RANYL FAJARDO
BIKA TRIZ CADIGAL
BENIGNO, JACKIE GETES
BERNADAS, MARIAN NICOLE RISONAR
BIONSON, ELYFEHR BALDO
BIRONDO, MALAYA BETH THERESS SARMAGO
BOTIN, LLOYD FRANCIS PARILLA
BUCOL, JADE MARIE ABALLE
BUDO, JOSUE JR. SUCAYRE
CABAHUG, JERR ALACRITO
CABAHUG, MARIAN ROSE LAGRIMAS
CABARDO, JEREMINE PECISION
CABARRUBIAS, HAZEL DIMPAS
CABAZARES, JANUS RUEL TAGLE
CACHO, IVY HONEYLOU GO
CAL, KENN GERARD PASAWA
CARINGAL, JAN JUSTINE LAFUENTE
CARREON, ARIEL MONDEJAR
CERENO, PATRICK FALLORINA
CLEMENCIO, EILEEN JOSEPHINE GAVAN
CONDEZA, LESELE OSIP
DAGATAN, CALBERT PADILLA
DELUAO, NATHAN RAY AMORA
DINOPOL, SHIELA MAE GALILA
DOISER, DIVINA ROBLES
DUHAYLUNGSOD, LOWELLA TITO
ELLAZO, REYMAR MAGLINTE
ENRIQUEZ, JOSANNA LEI JAMPAYAS
ERASMO, SHERLUCK JOHN LAGUTING
GALLEGOS, MARK ANTHONY SOROSSA
GENISE, WINTER ORTEZA
GOLVEQUE, PRINCESS KAREN GABAYAN
GUERRA, MARK HAROLD TIQUIS
HUERTAS, MA. LUISA CONCEPCION ANG
INOFERIO, MAYRIELLE REYES
JAVIER, JULIE MAE TAGAWA
KHO, JOLLIE APRIL VERGA
KWAN, MICAELLA RUTH PICHON
LANTICSE, ELLEN GIE BESONIA
LANTICSE, LESTER CABALLES
LARIOZA, IAN FEL BANGHAL
LASTIMADO, RUEL GERALD PANTOJAN
LAZARTE, DENNIS RUBILLA
LIO, NINA ANGELIE GO
LUIS, JOAN ILAG
LUSDOC, NICKY BOY PABRIGA
MABALE, HAZEL CABERTE
MADARANG, APRIL DALAGAN
MANUMPAY, MANNY CAERLANG
MASAGCA, DENIS NOEL SEMPIO
MATA, ROMIN AARON BARBOSA
MATEO, WELLA LYN AUMENTADO
MAYOR, JETT RAINER SARTE
MENDOZA, IAN JON PELARIO
MIJARES, JORGE HENRY TAMAYO
MINGOY, CATHERINE R.
MIRANDA, RHEA DONASCO
NAMOLO, NORLYN QUIMOT
NARVAEZ, NORY LOYD PANGILINGAN
OLLOY, PROPHET JEREMEY DAMALI
PAJARITO, QUEENZYL DELBO
PARADELA, ANNA LORAINE CABUYON
PASCO, JENNA RIZ DECENA
PERIN, MARIA LYN GIVERO
RABUDO, KARLO EDUARDO ALBULARIO
RAMOS, KIMMY LLAGAS
RAMOS, ROBIN CHARLES OMBIGA
REMULTA, JARED ELEFERIA
ROCA, CHARMI JOSELLE SEPULVEDA
ROCHA, LARRIE BERND CENIZA
SALAZAR, MILROSE GALBAN
SALCEDO, FRITZ ORTIZ
SAN PEDRO, REBEKKAH GRACE QUINDAO
SANICO, PAULO CANO
SOLMERON, MAT JASON LEDESMA
TABORA, JULIUS ULO
TARRANZA, LESTER DINOPOL
UY, BRIAN ONITA
UY, JACQUELINE CHRISTI BOQUISON
UY, MARIA IZA KARLA PANUDA
VALPARAISO, JOANA MAY GOMEZ
VENTURA, JINKY PEARL TAGUIRAN
VENTURA, MA. KRISTINA GARMA
VILCHEZ, ARDEN ESTEPA
VILLANUEVA, JONNA MAE SORIA
VILLEGAS, KRISTIAN HAUSER ARELLANO
ZAMBRA, VINCENT SAMAR
ZOZOBRADO, SAMUEL JR. QUIROS

***DAVAO ORIENTAL***

ANGON, ROMEO III MELITON
MENDOZA, ROD RYAN BARBA
OPRIASA, WILLIAM MORE
SABINO, KRIEL A.

***SOUTH COTABATO***
BALDERAS,
ABALUNAN, JUNIE PATAGNAN
ABATAYO, IAN REY PAGLINAWAN
AGUIRRE, JOENEO HENRY BIONAT
ANISLAG, RHEA MAE LIBRON
BACEA, REY CAMARINAS
BASTES, MAY ANNE MIJARES
BIACA, RIZZI MEIA SOMOGOD
BONITA, REX A.
BORJA, NOEL PERFECTO TEANILA
CANDY, MARK ANTHONY JELL RODRIGO
CASTANO, CLINFORD GARATE
CORDANO, MARIA THERESA DE ARCE
DANGALLO, LORENA ALIDRON
DASAS, GILBERT CALUNSAG
DEADIO, MAE FRETZEL HIDAMA
DEL ROSARIO, SHERYL ANN PELEGLORIO
DELA VICTORIA, GRAZEL PANINSORO
DIMAYUGA, ANNE DE GUZMAN
DICDINA, NERILYN SOGUILON
DOLOROSA, KRIS CARLO TADO
ERA, JANE BUGLOSA
FELICERTA, JOE-AN HUNAS
FELIPRADA, MICHELLE JOY TOMALTO
FRANCISCO, JERVIN AGULLANA
GRINO, CORNELIO IV BAYOGOS
HEMBRA, PHILLINE JOY EJAR
HILOMEN, KATRINA LAGAMON
ILUMBA, SARAH JANE LANSANGAN
LANGGA, RONEL PACLIBAR
LEMANA, KAE ROSAL
LICO, JO-ANNE GOMEZ
LOZARITA, MARY JOYCE LAGRAMA
LUNA, MIA JOPSON
MAGARZO, JUVELYN GANSAS
MANUEL, MARY GRACE GILZA
MARTIN, TRES TINNA BERNALES
MOREDO, EMILIANO RAFAEL CAPOTOL
NIDUELAN, ANNE MARIE VILLAFUERTE
NIERRA, EDGAR DAWN ESLAO
NITAFAN, MILCAH DUMORAN
PADON, SHEENA LOREN MAE BOLIVAR
PALABRICA, VENCENT HULGUIN
PALMA, JAYPEE SUNIO
PANTUHAN, GUILLERMO PANA
PARAS, ROBERT REY EBOL
PEDROSO, MARICON RAMO
RAFIL, FRANCIS JUDE ABRAHAM
REBUELTO, JOANA GANANCIAL
RODRIGUEZ, ANNA MAE ROQUERO
SONSONA, AISAH VILLANUEVA
SUBRADO, VENISE KENT AGUILAR
VILLAMOR, GERALYN RIVERA

***SARANGANI***

BARDINAS, CATHERINE LLENA
DEMATAWARAN, MAE BARON
GUNDAY, VENIE CARANGUE
PABILONA, JOHN ALBERT MAGBANUA
VERGARA, EDILBERTO JR. CONSTANTINO

***REGION 12***

***MAGUINDANAO***

AMULAN, BAI CHERRY MORALES
BALIMBINGAN, APRIL ANNE R.
CEBLANO, MA. THERESE MAE T.
DIAZ, DIADEM PEARL DICEN
MASCUD, NORMAN SALAZAR
PIANG, RASMIA REYES
SULTAN, YSMAEL ABDEL USMAN

***NORTH COTABATO***

ABDULLAH, RAHIB SALIK
ASENTISTA, MAY SUERTE
BANTIQUE, STELLA MAE SACMAN
BENITO, LOVELYN JOY SIDAYON
BUENAFLOR, EDEN ROSE ROSALIA
CAGAYAO, ARIES RINSIE ABARICO
DASMARINAS, JOHN DAVID TEANO
DELA CERNA, LAVINIA LANTICSE
ESCOLLAR, FLORY BER TOLENTINO
FLORES, VIRGILIO JR. TOLOSA
JALA, ROPRISCIO ABELLANA
JULIAN, CINDY LANTICSE
KUSAIN, RAHIB SAMA
QUEMADA, LARY CHRIS RENTUZA
SALVADOR, JOHNELLE BACULNA
SERVIGON, JULIUS PAULO RAMOS
SURIGAO, FRITZI JOY LALLEN
ULLO, ROSELE JAN SINGCO
VALIENTE, LOWELL RULE

***SULTAN KUDARAT***

CAPUMPUE, LOVEI MAE PAUNON
DISTOR, CHERYL BITO-ON
MANDARIO, CATHERINE GAVIOLA
MIPARANUM, JECELYN JOY LATORZA
PERONO, RONALD RYAN UMPA
YTURALDE, JOANE CHER FUENTES

***CARAGA***

***AGUSAN DEL NORTE***

ABIAN, RHUEMA M.
ALVAREZ, REY JEFFREY CULTURA
BURNEA, FRANCIS KIRBY BOKINGO
CACHO, LORRAINE ORTEGA
CANIOS, CHARISA UY
CARDENTE, GABRIEL ESTILLORE
CARRIDO, VINCIENT CLARO
DELA PENA, NESTOR JR A.
DELASALA, NARELYN VILLEZA
EXAURE, JENNIFER AMPO
FALCON, EHLBA DELOS SANTOS
GARCIA, KATHRYN VILLOCIDO
GOLOSINDA, JULIUS PEDROLA
GOMEZ, INEZ ANDREA JOSOL
JOPIA, VILIA SY
KUIZON, JACLYN OSA
LIM, EMELY DURIAS
MAGALLANES, JOIE MAHOMOC
MANIGO, JONATHAN PIZANA
MONTERO, LEE MAE PALARAN
NACORDA, GRACE HINGPIT
OLAGUER, MAHAL-A-LEEL JUAT
PACOT, TIFFANY FESALBONI
PAGADOR, RUEL APAS
PECHO, MA. LORYN CLAIRE BUZON
PUEBLOS, FLOR ANN LIBY UY
REYES, IVY GRACE AMPONG
TAN, ISRAEL JOSHUA O.
TAPERLA, GREGGY ADLAO
TRINQUITE, MARK GIL EBARLE
UY, JOHANNA MARIE JABANES
YUSON, MERIAM CALO

***AGUSAN DEL SUR***

ALABA, ARIEL COMPUESTO
ALVAREZ, AYRIN GRACE BILLANES
BARANG, ROBEL OLIVA
BONITA, DAVE MASUMBOL
CHANCO, JOCELYN MIQUE
DISTADIO, DEXIER LERIO
DIVA, MENCHE MAKIRING
GRANADA, NORIEZEL AMAHAN
MAHUMOT, NORMAN TROGUE
MARAMBA, ARJAY RARA
MAYOR, MAYETTE BATUCAN
MAZO, ROEVE ANN MAE CANIN
MORDENO, IVY CLAIRE VISCAYA
MORENO, ZINAME CONCEPCION P.
PASTOR, MICHAEL EVANS CASTROMAYOR
PEREZ, MELINDA RODRIGUEZ
PITOS, GENE BOY II JUANITO
PLAZA, KARREN MACATUMBAS
POLIGRATES, FEJIE LATI-AN
QUILATAN, LEONARD PULLOS
SAJULGA, MA. BERSIL LOPEZ
SUAYBAGUIO, CHERYL MAE TANDAYAG
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VITUALLA, MICHAEL MATIN-AO

***SURIGAO DEL NORTE***

ABEAR, HAROLD CHUA
ALBURO, RHEA AGNES GABUYA
BUENAVIDEZ, MARX REV ALCANTARA
CABANALAN, IVY DEONALDO
CHUA, CLINT RICHARD LEPARTO
CONTE, CHARREL PALMA
DEDUMO, DINA ESTERNON
EQUIPADO, JORAM JAY TRAVILLA
ESPALDON, REGIENALD SULIMA
GALEON, GILBERT JOEY AJOC
GOHETIA, EMMANUEL ENDRIGA
GOLO-AN, DAISY REE PAGAPONG
IBARRA, JERRY BAYBAYON
ILIO, CARLMARK JOHN PUEBLOS
PELAEZ, BRIAN ALEXIS DIAZ
PLAZA, MARIA ANGELIE GENPARO
POLIRAN, JOMARNIE DIAZ

***SURIGAO DEL SUR***

ALCALA, JOUIE SARANZA
BUYSER, VICMAR SUSTENTO
CADENAS, KIM JASON SALVADOR
CLARIT, BINGLE MARAJAY
COSMIANO, GILDA CUARTERO
DAGSA, WENIE L.
ELISAN, MERLO JR. OROZCO
FEROL, CIDRECK LUED ORILLANEDA
GOHETIA, JEAN TIODIANCO
JASIS, CATHERINE LALAINE PIDOR
LAGURA, KIT VENSON BALNIG
LANGOMES, REGIE RAVIDAS
LEYSON, QUEENIE VERALLO
MEDRANO, MILVEN LANGIT
MONTEDERAMOS, MARY GRACE CUELLO
PANILLA, FRANCIS ADRIAN DUAVES
PESTANO, RYAN DIEL TAJONERA
RONQUILLO, KENNY O.
SAMSON, LOVELYN ANINO
SANGLAY, STEVEN LOUIE LIM
TAACA, CLAIRE ASIO
TAN, ARLENE CLARICE FLORDELIZA
TRASPORTO, JAY ANTHONY TANTOY
YPARRAGUIRRE, BONIFACIO JR ANINO

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ABETRIA, GRAJAMNIEL VASQUEZ
ABITRIA, SHARLENE ROSE TOLOSA
ABOBON, JAN MICHAEL PERMANES
ABREA, JULIEVEN REGISTRADRO
ADRIANO, JO-ANNE SALAO
AGCAMARAN, JOHN PAUL PAMANI
AGLIAM, MARILOU PASCUA
AGUILA, JOANNE AGA
AGUSTIN, DONABELLE ZARATE
AGUSTINO, RUTH HANNAH SEGUNDO
ALAG, DANIEL RAMOS
ALBAREDO, REYNAN PEREZ
ALBERTO, MARK GUARDO
ALCANTARA, RYAN JOHN DEZA
ALCAZAR, DONALD MAGDURULAN
ALENTAJAN, RYAN NEO
ALFANTE, SHERRYLYN DULLAVIN
ALICAYA, JACQUELYN EUSTAQUIO
ALLADO, ADONIS MABAGOS
ALO, MIGUEL GERARD SAN JUAN
ALOTA, ANNA MARIE MANIAGO
ALPAJARO, MICHAEL ANTHONY RONDEZ
ALVAREZ, CLARISSA MENICABLE
AMON, ROGELETH TESORO
ANCHORES, CHRISTINA RACHEL MODESTO
ANICETO, MICAH VIDAL
ANTONIO, JHOANNA THERESE RUEDAS
ANTONIO, MARY ANN ONGOCO
APDUHAN, JC ZAMORA
APOLONIO, PERCINETH TOMAS
AQUIATAN, CRISTELLE JOY BALITON
ARAGON, ALVIN NINO BASIBAS
ARCEO, PAULINE JOANNE GAMIL
ARCINO, ANN MARIE VARGAS
ARGONCILLO, CHRISTIAN PANDAY
ASISTIO, NOEMI RUTH AGUILAR
ASTADAN, RIGOR CRISTOBAL
AUSTRIA, ELEZAR HITEROZA
AUSTRIA, JAN JETHRO MACASAET
AUSTRIA, PENNY ANNE VENZON
BABAS, CHRISTOPHER YONZON
BAGA, MARY LOURDES HUERTAS
BAGATELA, OGIE TULIPAS
BALAGTAS, OHMAR SANTOS
BALISACAN, MARIABELLE MARTINEZ
BALLESTEROS, ALVIN BAUTISTA
BAMBA, CRIS ZALDY TAYAG
BANIQUETT, JAN RENZ MALAQUI
BAROMA, ROXAN OCO
BARRIOS, CELINE NILO
BARTOLOME, JOSE GRACIANO FACISTOL
BASIBAS, NATHY IGMEN
BATICULON, SHEILA MARIE ENRIQUEZ
BAUTISTA, ANN RIA BAUTISTA
BAUTISTA, BENEDICT BAUTISTA
BAUTISTA, ELSA FERNANDEZ
BAUTISTA, LI-NEL PAULO GALANTO
BAUTISTA, LIWANI UTINAS
BELEN, RODEL GAUFO
BENAID, BERNADETTE REGANIT
BENDIJO, MYLENE VELARDE
BERE, JOEL ALAMAG
BERMEJO, ERIC ROJAS
BERNALDO, MARFE ANTONETTE BENECIRO
BIAG, ARLAINE CASTRO
BIEN, JESSICA BENOSA
BILUAN, JANBERLY SAMIA
BISA, RONALYN BITBIT
BISCOCHO, RIO AUDREY EBONIA
BONDOC, ARIANNE JOYCE VERBO
BONGKINGKI, JOYCE ANNE AGUILAR
BOQUIREN, DARYLL JESTER HIKONG
BOTULAN, ANDREW LANDICHO
BRAGA, DENMARK DICHOSO
BRION, BRYAN MANGAMPO
BRIOSO, KAREN JOY OCAMPO
BUGAYON, JETHRO ESTORNINOS
BURGOS, NIXON SUNGA
CACHAPERO, JEREMIE PECSON
CAJEFE, MARK AUGUST MELCHOR
CALAGUAS, ARMIE GUEVARRA
CALDERON, JEREMIAH SALERA
CALVELO, JAY BRIAN RELAO
CAMPOSANO, JAE RALPH ADRIANO
CANARES, DAISYRE MAGCOSTA
CAPATI, JEFFERSON CANA
CAPISPISAN, FRANCIS LUCKY SANCHEZ
CAPISTRANO, MARK JOHN PAUL RIVERA
CARANDANG, ROGIE ROYCE ZAMORA
CARDINOZA, JOMARK BENITO
CARLOS, EILLEN GAMBOA
CARRANZA, LEANN ADOPTANTE
CARREON, LORDAN GONZALES
CASAGAN, KIMBERLYN TULAUAN
CASIMIRO, JARIETTE SENTINAR
CASQUEJO, KAREN MATEO
CASTRO, EVANGELINE VANO
CASTRO, FERRARIN LECHEDO
CASTRO, FORT JOSEPH MARTIN
CASUNCAD, NELSON BAGANDOC
CASUYON, ROSEMARIE REYES
CATALAN, DODI ANN PECSON
CENAR, MA. SELA TORRES
CHAN, MARISSA LEGASPI
CHU, ROGELYN MAQUIRANG
CILLO, ARIEL TENEFRANCIA
CIRUJALES, DEBORAH DEL MAR
CLARO, EVEREST MAE SAYSON
CLEMENO, ROMINA MONZON
COLLADO, RESTY CASTRO
COLORINA, IAN CHESTER VITERBO
COLUMA, HARRIS DIAZ
CONCEPCION, ESTEBAN LONJAWON
CONCIO, MARLYN MAY TABANAS
CORONEL, FERDINAND R.
CORPUZ, DANIEL RODOLF FRANCISCO
CORPUZ, RACHEL ANN BANES
CORREA, ANNALYN MAGLENTE
CORTEZ, KARMELA ANGELA GARCIA
CRISTOBAL, VERMIE HONRA
CRUZ, ANJILLYN MAE DE JESUS
CRUZ, APRIL DIANA
CRUZ, MARK JOSEPH MARTINEZ
CRUZ, RIZA R.
CRUZ, ROCHELLE D.
CUARESMA, CARMELA CAYANAN
CUARTO, AMIE ILUSTRE
CUE, SHERWIN DOMANICO
CUENCA, RANDOLPH AMBOY
CUEVAS, JON ERIC VILLONES
DACIAN, CESSA MAE MORENO
DADO, ROSSMAN BALBUENA
DANOS, ALLAN DELA VEGA
DE CASTRO, GABRIEL AUGUSTINE ESCOBIDO
DE GUZMAN, JOSEPHINE PIMENTEL
DE GUZMAN, LIMUEL FERRERAS
DE LEON, FRANCISCO ANTIMANO
DE LEON, RED APRIL BUGARIN
DE MESA, RHIA ABIGAIL DE SAGUN
DE VERA, DIANA LEY ORCILLA
DEATO, MICHELLE ANDAL
DEL ROSARIO, ALWIN BULA
DEL ROSARIO, ARLENE GERON
DELA CRUZ, ANNABEL DELA VEGA
DELA CRUZ, JOANNA GRACE VALLEGA
DELA CRUZ, RYAN SAPIGAO
DELA PENA, MC ROBART STEELER GAABUCAYAN
DELA ROSA, AIMEE SANTOS
DELA ROSA, STEVE PAOLO ATIVO
DELA ROSA, WARPHY DUMALAG
DERIQUITO, VANESSA ELMA
DERLA, ROVEL GARCELES
DETABLAN, ALMER VIRGO
DIAZ, RENE SILONG
DIGO, ALEXANDER MELANO
DIMAANO, PAULINE FAJARDO
DIMAPILIS, MIGNON NICOLETTE CUACHON
DIONISIO, LEAH COSTALES
DIZON, ROGELIO GULAM
DOMINGO, CHARLES SIMON DE LEON
DOMINGO, IDEE OCHENTA
DORDE, WINNIE JAVIER
DRICE, NATHANIEL OCAMPO
ELGO, PHIL EPHRAIM TEJERERO
ELLANA, MARIVIC MEJIA
ENRIQUEZ, LILICAR ROSCAIN
ERVITE, ERWIN CLAVERIA
ESCALONA, JAMES ALFRED MEJICO
ESCALONA, MIKHAEL DANNE CALOLOT
ESMAQUILAN, ALMA CENTENO
ESMERO, CRESENCIO JR. MIRAS
ESPARTERO, JESSECA AILENE CALUSA
ESPINOZA, JOANA PAULA MORALES
ESPIRITU, DANILYN DELA CRUZ
ESPIRITU, KART PEARSON MARIANO
ESTORES, ANA KRISTINA DOMANICO
ESTRADA, MARIAH JENNIFER ANN DAQUIL
ESTRADA, RALLYE ADVIENTO
ESTRELLADO, EMMANUEL LIBO-ON
EVANGELISTA, LYNN SAQUILAYAN
FADRILLAN, ANELIA OLIVA
FEGI, JORELLA APRIL MACALALAD
FELIZARDO, JOHN CARLO SANTOS
FERMIN, APRIL SHERRY BERNALES
FERNANDEZ, JANRAY SAMERA
FERNANDO, ALEXA RAY RONSAIRIO
FERNANDO, PAOLO C.
FERRER, ARNICA SAMBRANO
FERRER, MARY JOY GRACIA
FIRMEZA, ANDREA CRESTA FIRMEZA
FLORES, ANALIZA CACUYONG
FLORES, FELIZ GRACE DY
FLORES, JOHN ROMERT DEANO
FORTE, JAYSON BONGON
FRANCISCO, KRISTINE JOY SERRAN
FRANKIE, VLADIMIR GAMIAO
GABAY, JENNIFER AIZA BELO
GABRIEL, CHRISTIAN ALULOD
GALAROSA, MENCHE CARREON
GARCIA, CITADEL ROA
GASPAY, LIEZL JOY GARCIA
GAUANG, JOSE JR. MARIANO
GAYOMA, MA. RONENALIZA CENTENO
GERMAN, MARK JUNE RAGASA
GERNALE, NELMAN CORTES
GERONIMO, FERDINAND REGIS
GERONIMO, SUNNY PABILADA
GIMENA, JOHN BENEDICT PICHAY
GLORIANI, MARK GREGORE GLODA
GOMEZ, MA. CRISTINA MIRASOL ARRIVAS
GONZALES, LORENA GLORIA
GRABUSO, AILYN FACTURANAN
GRAVIDEZ, JOSELITO MONPONBANUA
GUARIN, MELVINO NEGRE
GUEVARRA, ANGELINA TAN
GUICO, AURA JOY MUYANI
HABAL, GERALD ALVERO
HALO, JEFFREY CARLOS
HARINA, APRIL ONG
HERANGCO, RIOLANI MAMARIL
HERMANOS, LAIZA RAMIREZ
HERNANDEZ, DONNIE RAY SURIBEN
HERNANDEZ, WILLY ORDANOSO
HONRADO, CHRISTINE LEDESMA
HULAR, LARRY GABRIEL
IBO, STEPHANIE BANARES
IGNACIO, IESEL KRIS ABRAHAM
IGOT, RICHARD RAMOS
INGCAD, MARK OLIVER SANTOS
INOSANTO, CHRISTIAN JOHN GRAJO
INVENTADO, CHARWEN IBIT
ITONA, JANDY DATU
JACOB, JOANA MAE MANALO
JALANDO-ON, DIANNE RACHEL HABLADO
JALBUNA, RYAN MARQUEZ
JAO, BELLY FERRER
JIAO, AILEEN KATHERINE ESTRADA
JIMENEZ, JAN MICHAEL ELIAS RASAY
JOBILO, JOEBY BARANGAN
JOCSON, ROMEO CLEMENTE
JOSE, BIEN JOHN LABID
JOVEN, HONEY LYN L.
JUBAN, KRIZLEJANE BALALLO
JUBAY, IMEE MORILLO
KAGAHASTIAN, KARIZHMA EZRA ARENAL
LACESTE, ERICKSON MAYRINA
LADERAS, JESSIE CIMANES
LAMBERTE, SARAH VICTORIA TE
LANADA, DIANA PEDRAZA
LAQUIAN, JULIE ANNE FRIAS
LARION, JOELAR VILLAROZA
LARUA, SARAH NICOLE CRISOSTOMO
LASALA, MARK ALVIN ABAY
LASIN, LOYD SANTOS
LASIN, RYAN SANTOS
LAZO, JANINA RHEA ALBANO
LEGASPI, MA. CARLOTA ABUSTAN
LEONARDO, JOSEPH ENRICO ASTORGA
LERUM, MARY ANN UMALI
LIM, MARK BENEDICT URBANOZO
LIMBO, MARIA CRISANTA TALINO
LIWANAG, TIANIA BELEN TIBIO
LIZADA, ELMER ROLLORATA
LLANETA, MADONNA MARQUEZ
LLOVIDO, JOHN CHRISTOPHER CUMANAN
LOBRINO, DENCY SENIA
LOPEZ, GASPAR JR. VILLANUEVA
LOPEZ, MAY JOCELYN VILLENO
LOREJA, ARLENE ZULUETA
LORENZO, GLAISSA MAPUE
LOSA, LEAH LEBASNON
LOZANO, KATHERINE AGUSTINO
LUCAS, ANGELO NINO PAGKALINAWAN
LUCAS, RHEA THERESE MENDOZA
LUIB, MARISA BANTILAN
LUMANLAN, CHRISTIAN QUIAMBAO
LUMITAO, MARIA CORAZON PECILLER
MACALMA, MARIA LEONORA MONES
MADARANG, RONNA GARGABITE
MAGRO, KRISTOFFER RYAN CALUBIRAN
MAGUNDAYAO, MABEL ADSACA
MAHILOM, KHRISTOFFER DOTDOT
MAJAM, RAFAEL ANILAO
MALAKI, ANN MAUREEN TUASON
MALINANA, KRISTEL CORRAL
MALLARI, MICHAEL D.
MAMARACLO, MARIVIC DE LOS SANTOS
MAMALAYSAY, KRISTINA CELENE MENDOZA
MANAPAT, RICHARD SANCHEZ
MANDURIAO, RODEL DESUNIA
MANGUNDAYAO, RAFAEL SUMAYO
MANUEL, JENNYLYN FERNANDO
MAQUI, JACQUELINE BALITAAN
MARABE, RENATO JR. OEBANDA
MARASIGAN, MARKO KRISTINA FURIA
MARBIBI, MARA TONKA BASON
MARIANO, JOY OLIVER
MARIN, MARIA KATHRINA GACUTE
MARQUEZ, AILEEN ALBUERA
MARTIN, APRIL KRISTINE SUPINA
MARTINEZ, JOHN RAY BALISTOY
MATELA, JERICO GALLETO
MATIAS, MERWIN JOVERIC STA.MARIA
MATIONG, KEZIAH ARTISTA
MAYOR, ALVIN JOHN TUBATO
MEDINA, EDGAR III C.
MEDINA, FATIMA AIZA FRANCISCO
MEJIA, EDWARD B.
MELAD, LYLE MULI
MENDOZA, JONATHAN DELA TORRE
MENDOZA, MICHELLE ROSALES
MENDOZA, REYNARD MACULA
MIGUEL, RONA MAE CUNANAN
MILLARE, CAROLYN JOY PEYUAN
MINO, REXCY EVERT MATIAS
MINON, JAY KLAUS PINTO
MONDEJAR, LYNN CARMELI CABRERA
MONSANTO, NOEMI MATIENZO
MONTALES, RONALD URRUTIA
MORA RONET SISTER
MORALES, ARTHUR FERNANDEZ
MOTIN, MARK ANTHONY CASTILLO
MUNAR, ANGELICA ROSE ARAO
MURILLO, JOHN DOMINIC GASMEN
NABAYRA, KATLEEN JOYCE PASCUAL
NANG, KATHLEEN DE GUZMAN
NARITO, MELIZZA BIANCA DIZON
NARVACAN, GLAIZA FEROLINO
NASTOR, MARK BENSON REBALDE
NAVARRA, RODRIGO JR. PANAGUITON
NAVARRO, MARY GRACE CABRERA
NIETO, MA. CRISTINA DELA TORRE
NIEVA, FERNANDO MANAOG
NOVENO, LORD WALLY EDOVAS
NUGUID, JICAE SANTIAGO
NUNEZ, MARVIN MCNEIL JUDIT
OANDASAN, MA. MELROSE GEMMA PEDROSO
OBAYAN, ROMMEL LEBANTO
OBO, EMERSON MANINGAT
OCTAVO, FERDINAND POSTIGO
OGOY, JENNIFER GRIJALVO
OLEDAN, ANNA MARIE ZURBITO
OMNES, MARK JASON RANOCO
ONG, RHOY VINCENT SAPIT
ONG, SIEMHE GRETHELBERG DEANG
OPENA, MARY GRACE QUINTO
ORBITA, ABEGAIL OPTANA
ORDONIO, MANILENE BALDEMORO
ORFINADA, DON S.
ORNO, FRENCHE APOR
ORPILLA, LEA HERNANDEZ
ORTEGA, SHELLAM BANAGLERIOSO
OSORIO, ANGELICA MARIE ESQUIVEL
OYCO, JERICKSON PALDING
OZAETA, DON KING TAGELO
PAGDROGON, STEPHEN ANGELO HISALER
PAGUYO, KAREN SINOPE
PALTINCA, JONNELYN JOYCE REANOSA
PAMFILO, JERICO CANADA
PAPA, MELANIE CAGARA
PARAS, MADISON CORPUZ
PARDO, TRISTAN JOSEPH ESGUERRA
PASCUA, ALAINE MILFRED MANPON
PASCUAL, BEN IDRIS PULUMBARIT
PASCUAL, JENNIE ROSE MANALILI
PAVO, ANDREE ROSE CHRISTIAN MARANON
PELAEZ, JASMIN VANESSA PARAN
PENANO, RODEM COBACHA
PENOL, ROSALYN ARMA
PENOLIO, WYNNDEE ALEJANDRO
PERALTA, FLORENCIO ROCERO
PIDLAOAN, ROLAINE BALAJADIA
PINEDA, EDISON AGOJO
PLACIDO, GIZELLE MAY VICENTE
POBLETE, ALDRIN JOSEPH ORIS
POLIDARIO, JENNIFER TRONCO
PONCE DE LEON, RELLMON PILI
PONDOC, JOHN RAY CHAVEZ
PORTES, ENRIQUE II DINGAL
PRINCIPE, JEARK ARMINGOL
QUIJON, JOANAFE LASAC
QUINTANO, ANGELA BAGAHANSOL
QUIROZ, CHARINA NIVERA
RABANO, CATHERINE GAUDIEL
RAMIREZ, ALPHA JOY CANINDO
RAMIREZ, KAREN ANN TIANCHON
RAMOS, DEBBIE RIZA GUEVARA
RAMOS, KAREN KHRYS AUTOR
RAMOS, MARIVIC ROSALES
RAMOS, PAUL ANDREW NAVARRO
RAMOS, ROJANNE SENGCO
RANAIN, DON BAYOR MIJARES
RANDA, MIRASOL BAGSARSA
REAZON, KRISTEL AMARO
REBOLLIDO, JOBELLE ALVARADO
REBULTAN, JOANNE GARCIA
RECEDES, EINSTEIN ZAPATA
RECIO, MA. LOURDES BERNADETTE DE JESUS
RECOMETA, IVORY SHEINE TESIORNA
REGANIT, GLADYS GRACE M.
REGENCIA, VICTORIA RAMIREZ
RELI, WARREN BERNARDO
RENTA, DANIEL BARCIAL
REPOLLO, MICHELLE PAMBID
REVILLA, DARYL JAN ALA
REYES, BJON JAVIN SIBAL
REYES, CARINA DETERA
REYES, CHERYL DE GUZMAN
REYES, JOSEPH MARANAN
REYES, JULIAN JAVIER
REYES, JULIO RODRIGO JAVIER
REYES, MA. CRISELDA SABAS
REYES, NARISH LACABA
REYES, PATRICK MORALES
REYES, RENALIZ PINTOR
RICAMATA, CLAVER ICO
RICO, ALLAN MILLARE
RIVERA, RAMON GINO CRUZ
RIVERA, ROWENA ANISLAG
RIVERO, RAQUEL JANE MIANO
ROBLES, MARICAR MANGUERRA
ROBLES, RUSSEL ELAURIA
RODIL, MICHELLE NITORAL
RODRIGUEZ, CYRIL LEGASPINA
RODRIGUEZ, MARY FATIMA CONTAWE
ROXAS, IVY PITOGO
ROXAS, MENANDRO DELA CRUZ
RUGA, LORENZO RODAJE
SABALLA, MARK GREGORY SOLIMBAO
SABILLA, RYAN ROSLIN
SABLAS, ERWIN LAMBAN
SAET, HAZELWIN SIRUNO
SAGURIT, JENNIFER AGLAON
SALAPARE, NOALAE STEPHANIE ZANDUETA
SALAS, JOHANN STEPHEN IMPERIAL
SALAZAR, STACEY CARMELA RAZ
SALCEDO, EVANGELUS TARCE
SALVO, MICHAEL PASTORES
SAMAR, MICHAEL PAUL CREDO
SAN DIEGO, JHERICO SALGADO
SANGALANG, ABEGAIL SAMBAYAN
SANTIAGO, AIZA NEO
SANTIAGO, KRISTOFFER PUNO
SANTOS, ADRIAN MAGALONG
SANTOS, CHRISTOPHER IAN FORQUIS
SANTOS, JERRY ROSS CELESTRA
SANTOS, JONAS CAMSON
SANTOS, KIM NANO
SANTOS, MERYNISA JESUSA FAUSTO
SANTUICO, PAMELA SIAGA
SARA, LOUGENEIL IAN BERNAS
SARCINO, MARVIN SAN PABLO
SAULOG, RICHARD TORMES
SAVELLANO, JUNETTE ROSELL UMOLI
SAYSON, ANERSON PENDON
SEDO, VIRGILIO MURATA
SEGOVIA, BENIGNO BANZON
SENAS, CHERRY JIMM TORION
SERA, MA. BELINDA REQUIMIN
SERAPIO, THERESE MARGRET AGUIRRE
SESE, ELMO IV ORILLE
SICAM, GIYA MARIE SANTAYANA
SILAO, FITZ GERALD SALAZAR
SIMBAJON, CATHERINE SANTOS
SINDAYEN, MARDIE FABRICANTE
SINEL, LIMUEL JEFF MACATOBAL
SOLIMAN, KATHERINE LACE SAYGO
SOLIS, ANNA LISA ROSALES
SOLIS, BERNADETTE KRISTINE ROSALES
SORIANO, MARIA NERISSA RAMOS
SUPERIO, RONALD SIONOSA
SURELL, ERICSON VILLANUEVA
SY, MARIA BRIGETTE NUNEZ
TAGABE, ROGELIO JR. BRAGAS
TAGANA, KAREN RODRIGUEZ
TAMAYO, JHON MARK JULVE
TAMONDONG, JANICE PASCUAL
TAN, ROSELLE ELISEO
TAPAO, RAM LANOY
TAYABA, LESTER SANCHO
TAYLO, JAN MICHAEL VINCENT BONGOC
TECSON, JOSE RYAN RAY MARCELO
TENGCO, FRANCE COLE MEDINA
TENGCO, LARRY FONTANILLA
TOLENTINO, KARINA ARBOLEDA
TOLENTINO, KAYCEE ESPIRITU
TORRES, IAN CHRISTOPHER MEDINA
TORRES, MARK EDWARD ADRIOSULA
TRAJANO, JULIUS CESAR IMPERIAL
TUAZON, MICHELLE IWAY
TULOD, MICHAEL LUCES
TUMANENG, RALPH EDWARD RAFAEL
TUPAZ, KARLA KATRINA LARRACAS
URBANO, SIRACH BACOLCOL
URSABIA, LESLIE SOLIDUM
USI, MA. GLADYS ASUNCION
USMAN, LEONIDES MAYOR
VALDEZ, MARY JOY BARTE
VALENTIN, KRISHNA DAGDAGAN
VALENTINO, MA. RICA VANESSA ALVAREZ
VALIENTE, FLORIAN DONOR
VENTURA, RODELYN DOLENDO
VERGARA, JED GAMO
VICENTE, DERMIN RIO SULIT
VICENTE, JEELYN ANDREA CASTILLO
VIGA, SARAH JANE YAMIT
VILLALVA, FROILAN BALIAT
VILLAMOR, JESABEL ALBANIA
VILLANUEVA, KARYL XYRRA DELOS REYES
VILLANUEVA, KATHLEEN ANTHEA GONZALES
VILLAR, NORLY BASTASA
VILLAR, RON LOUIE LAYUG
VISAYAS, JUMAR MAGNAYE
VISTA, RO-ANN MAE NAVARRO
VIZCARRA, HERA SHEKINAH TANIECA
VIZCO, JOVY GONZALES
WANIWAN, MARIFE DIVARAS
YAP, KENNY MADRIAGA
YUBI, ANNA MICHELLE MAGTAL
ZUNIGA, JOVELYN CALINGASAN

# Leongson RP bet in Guam

ERNIE Leongson, last year's Saipan Open champion and 1994 Rider of the Year awardee, will represent the country in the 2002 Guam Smokin Wheel Supercross Championship scheduled on April 21 in Guam.

Leongson, representing the Shell-Yamaha Racing Team, was picked by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa), the country's governing body in motorcycle sports and duly recognized by the Federacion Internationale de Motorcycliste (FIM) and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) for the job by virtue of his "tremendous talent and impressive record in the national motorcross series in the last 10 years."

Asian Motorcross union president and Namssa secretary general Macky Carapiet said Leongson epitomizes the virtues of the complete Filipino motorcross rider who can more than hold his own against the best in the region.

"He (Leongson) is a perfect choice to represent the country in the Guam race. I believe he can very well carry the Philippine flag during the competition," said Carapiet, who is scheduled to accompany Leongson and Namssa president Ken Falco to the popular tourist destination in the Pacific.

Carapiet said Guam racing Federation president Henry Simpson and race director Dennis Quinones expressed their gratitude that a multi-awarded Filipino rider like Leongson will see action in the event "considering the very large Filipino community now based in Guam."

"He (Leongson) will surely be a big attraction in the event," added Carapiet.

Carapiet also thanked Shell ASEAN consumer marketing manager Raffy Capinpin, Shell brand manager "for motorcycle oil Serge Bernal and Norkis-Yamaha vice president for marketing Manuel "Boy" Albos for allowing their top rider to represent the country in the prestigious competition.

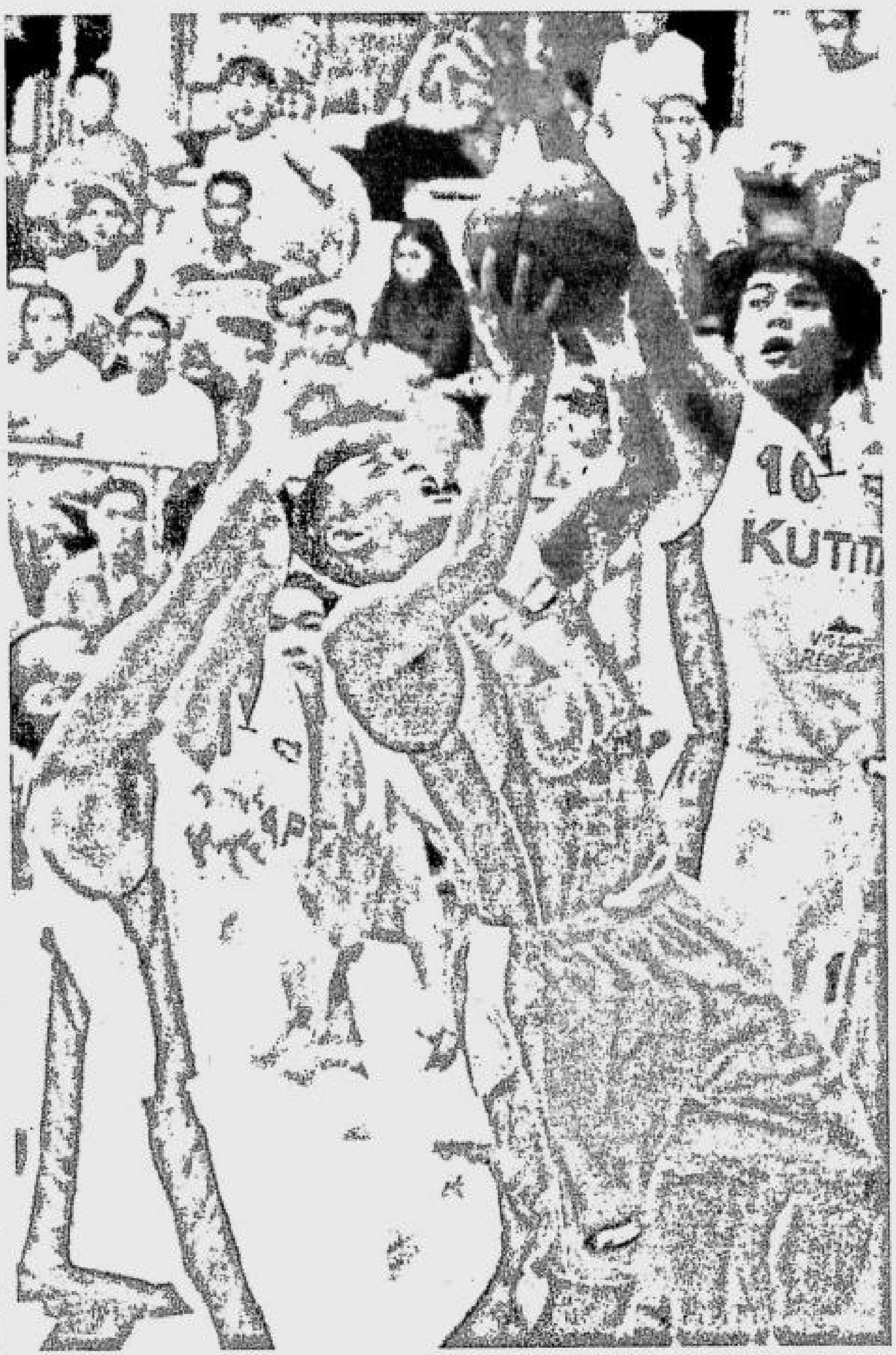
# Selecta-Ginebra on

**GAME TODAY (Makati Coliseum)**
6 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Ginebra

ONLY pride and dignity will be at stake when the Selecta-RP Team and Barangay Ginebra face each other today in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Virtually out of the running for a quarterfinals seat, Selecta-RP and Barangay Ginebra aspire to end their elimination stint with aplomb and escape the shame of being placed just a flight higher than Shell, the league's tailender at 1-9.

The Hapee-RP Team holds a 4-7 card after losing to San Miguel Beer, 76-67, on Tuesday. The victory pushed the Beermen to the next round.



**BLU'S Aries Dimaunahan (with ball) gets past two Kutitap defenders only to get blocked by Mark Saquilayan (right) during their PBL Chairman's Cup game yesterday at the Makati Coliseum. Kutitap won, 78-71.** JESS YUSON

# Kutitap tops error-prone Blu, 78-71

**GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)**
4 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Shark
6 p.m.—Montaña vs John-O-Juzz

**By June Navarro**

KUTITAP Toothpaste capitalized on Blu Detergent's turnovers to prevail, 78-71, and force a three-way tie for second yesterday in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Jayvee Sison, Cyrus Baguio and Allan Salansang converted Blu's miscues into timely baskets in the final three minutes that paved the way for the Teeth Sparklers' third win after four starts.

The Teeth Sparklers now share similar records with John-O-Juzz and ICTSI-La Salle.

Earlier, ICTSI-La Salle dumped the RP Youth Team, 106-59, behind a merciless run-and-gun attack in the first half.

The Johnny Tam-mentored RP Youth Team remained winless in three games along with defending champion Shark Energy Drink.

But despite Kutitap's whirlwind finish, head coach Coy Banal was far from satisfied with his boys' performance.

"We need to fix the mental aspect of our game. Physically, we're there but mentally we were groping most of the time," said Banal.

It became evident when the Teeth Sparklers relinquished a double-digit advantage during the third period, allowing the Detergent Kings to stage a comeback.

Meanwhile, Ana Freezers stunned Ateneo-Hapee, 73-67, to force a four-way traffic at the top of the standings.

Leaning heavily on Ronald Tubid, Roland Pascual and Dondon Mendoza for the needed points, the Freezer Kings capitalized on Ateneo's handful of errors in the closing minutes to improve their mark to 3-2.

The Blue Eagles, who dominated the contest three-fourths of the way, also wilted on a couple of non-calls at crunchtime.

# Bucks rout Raptors, near playoff berth

MILWAUKEE—Thanks to 24 points from Sam Cassell, 23 from Ray Allen and 22 from Glenn Robinson, the Milwaukee Bucks routed the Toronto Raptors, 105-89, Tuesday.

Anthony Mason added 18 points for the Bucks, who inched closer to a playoff berth while denying the Raptors a postseason spot.

Other Results—Indiana 99, Cleveland 95; Washington 116, New York 112; Orlando 102, Atlanta 95; Charlotte 88, Miami 81; Milwaukee 105, Toronto 89; Detroit 103, New Jersey 98; San Antonio 95, Phoenix 71; Dallas 96, Utah 87; Denver 101, Houston 70; Sacramento 120, Golden State 106; L.A. Clippers 92, Memphis 84. AP

# Eagles rally from 21, beat Stars

| Standings | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Cebuana Lhuillier | 3 | 0 |
| RCPI Negros | 3 | 1 |
| *Osaka Pangasinan | 2 | 1 |
| *Olongapo | 2 | 1 |
| Professional Davao | 3 | 2 |
| LBC Batangas | 0 | 2 |
| Pampanga | 0 | 3 |
| Casino CDO | 0 | 3 |

*Playing at presstime

**GAME TODAY (Mindanao Polytechnic)**
6 p.m.—Pampanga vs Cagayan

**By Roy Luarca**

FOR the Professional Davao Eagles, it's the final count that matters.

The Eagles trailed by as many as 21 points in the third quarter, but struck back to tally a 94-88 victory over the Pampanga Stars on Tuesday night in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Conference at the RMC Gym in Davao City.

Peter June Simon, the 2001 Discovery of the Year, again shone in the Eagles' third win in five starts by firing 11 of his team-high 19 points in the last period.

The high-flying Simon got ample support from veteran Bong Marata, recruits Cid White and Glenn Peter Yap and rookies Billy Mamaril and Jon Dan Salvador as the Eagles greeted the fourth quarter with a 15-point cluster to finally wrest control at 83-74 with 6 minutes and 44 seconds left.

The Stars, who raced to a 62-41 spread behind the guns of Dave Bautista and Richie Melencio, failed to mount a counterattack and dropped to the cellar with their third straight defeat.

"We were supposed to play full court press, but the boys did not seem to respond to our defensive plays so we lagged behind," said Davao coach Bong Go. "Only in the fourth quarter that they were able to adjust and live up to our battle cry which is Kapit Aguila."

Davao's triumph spoiled the debut of 6-foot-7 Chris Guinto, who made 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Pampanga, as he held his own against fellow Fil-Am Billy Mamaril on even terms. The 6-foot-6 Mamaril ended up with eight points and nine rebounds.

Osaka Pangasinan and Olongapo are still battling at presstime at the CDCC Gym in San Fabian, Pangasinan.

# Ateneo's Magnificent 7

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

I HAVE to give it to Joel Banal. He's been doing wonders for Ateneo despite the fact that he has been appointed Blue Eagles coach only recently. Look, Ateneo has never had it so good; it's now 3-1 in the ongoing PBL Chairman's Cup.

And fancy this. Bill Bayno, sure, knows a talent when he sees one. The Talk N Text mentor has grabbed Banal as one of his assistants even before Banal could warm his seat at Ateneo.

Bayno himself has continued to make heads turn because of his splendid handling of Talk N Text on a consistent basis. Talk N Text is now the PBA co-leader with Purefoods (8-2). Even before he could call his first timeout in the nation's premiere cagefest, I knew Bayno would put Talk N Text atop the leaderboard in no time. I am familiar with his coaching style with the UNLV Running Rebels. Near flawless. Heavily-laced with basketball science.

But back to Banal and Ateneo.

Do you know that seven of Banal's Eagles earned college diplomas this year?

Enrico Villanueva, who has been dishing out superlative games lately in the PBL, has completed his interdisciplinary studies, the same course that Ryan Pamintuan has finished. Also graduating this year are Wesley Gonzales (management information system), Marco Benitez (management engineering), Alfred Antonio (management economics), Andrew Cruz (psychology) and Eric Yao (management).

Will Ateneo's lineup for the 2002 UAAP season appear decimated following the graduation of the seven?

Not really.

I was told Ateneo's Magnificent 7—if not the majority of them, anyway—will take up master's degrees in order for them to continue playing for Ateneo.

For, imagine the seven out of Ateneo come the UAAP wars. What's going to happen to Ateneo's drive for that elusive UAAP crown, deflected rudely the past three years by La Salle?

If you ask me, I can live with that. It's just a game, you know. The seven cagers earning diplomas is more than enough reason for me to celebrate. Hey, Villanueva & Co. waving diplomas means they have just kept alive Ateneo's fine tradition of producing fine cagers with a knack for pocketing degrees as well.

How many schools can also lay claim to that?

# Eagle Ridge tilt gets Mizuno windfall

PATIENCE will be as important as making the right judgment on clubbing for a field of 200 teams joining the hunt for the Eagle Ridge Invitational golf tournament starting tomorrow at the Faldo and Dye courses of the country's biggest golf complex.

Good rounds and lucky shots will have its rewards as major tournament backer Mizuno, through its managing director Lovell Gopez, is set to give away equipment and apparel worth no less than P200,000.

Playing conditions are expected to be tough with the winds blowing strong from all directions, not to mention the undulating greens and fairways and the many hazards lurking in both championship courses.

"The hardwork won't be over until the final putt is holed, that's for sure. We chose the Dye and Faldo courses to balance out competition for the low and high handicappers," said organizing committee head Winnie Gob.

The Mizuno package for the event using the best-ball with handicap format includes two hole-in-one prizes, a T-Zoid Sure and Liasion, its hot-selling T-Zoid Forged drivers, caddie bags and Boston bags.

Aside from the Mizuno prizes, a Honda City is up for grabs for a hole-in-one feat.

A Ford Lynx is the top raffle prize that goes with kitchen and appliance showcases and so many other items totaling more than a million pesos.

Weekend tee-offs are already closed but members deciding to join at the last minute can still make it to the Friday-Saturday and Friday-Sunday schedules. For inquiries, call 046-4192841 (look for Gwyne) or fax 046-4192843.

The other major sponsors are Readycon, Unirock, GG&A Club Development and Golforce Inc. Hole sponsors are Kart Plaza Manufacturing, Citibank, Club Consultancy, Mandarin Oriental, Microtel and Golf Library.

# Canape wins Samar charity golfest at Valley

LAWYER and Tournament Director Plaridel J. Bohol II announced yesterday that Alain Canape of the Pinseekers Golf Club emerged over-all champion in the "Swing for a Cause" 76'rs Cup golf tournament for the benefit of Samar National School at Valley's Executive Course.

Canape, shooting a net 70, bested 61 opponents.

Other results: Class "A" champion—Dan Bautista, net 70; 1st runner-up—Vlady Ponce de Leon, net 71; 2nd runner-up—Poping Flores, net 71;

Class "B" champion—Ching Pascual, net 72; 1st runner-up—Gen Solquillo, net 72; 2nd runner-up—Raoul Creencia, net 73;

Class "C" champion—Rolly Aquino, net 73; 1st runner-up—Rolly Balmes, net 75, 2nd runner-up—Boyet Navarro, net 75;

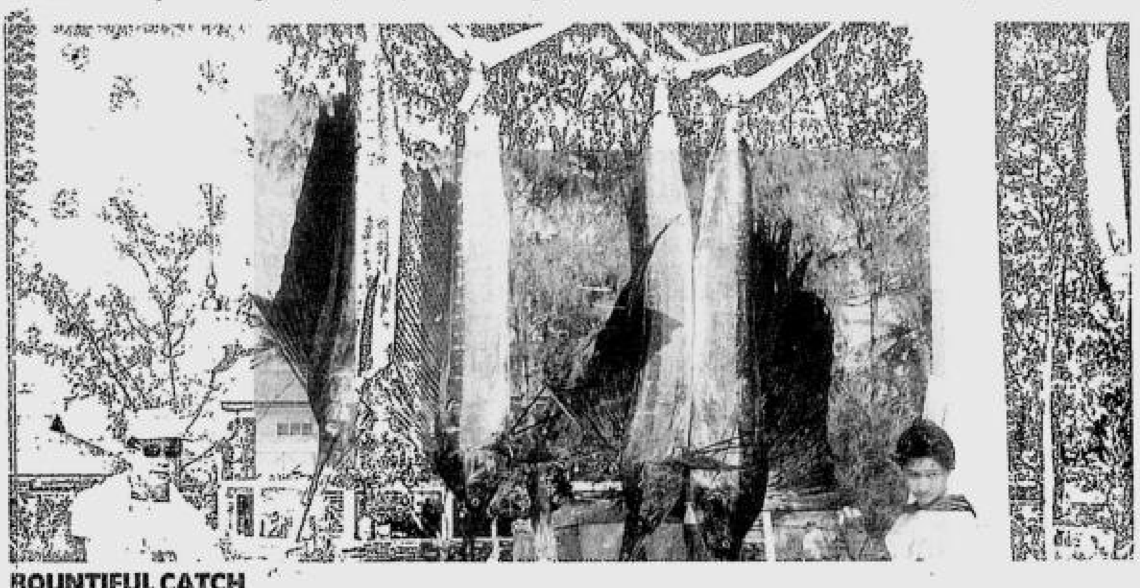
Ladies Division: Champion—Malyn Flores, net 73; 1st runner-up—Myrna Ulep, net 76; 2nd runner-up—Ian Gomez, net 76.

Bohol called on his fellow alumni to attend the General Homecoming on April 22 to 28 in Catbalogan, Samar. Class 1976 is host.

Secretary Raul Roco of the Department of Education will be the Guest of Honor/Speaker on April 27.

He will be introduced by Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Rep. Antonio "Eddie" Nachura.

On April 25, a testimonial dinner will be held by members of Class 1977 as Silver Jubilarians and Class 1952 as Golden Jubilarians, led by former Leyte Rep. Sergio A.F. Apostol, the incumbent president, chairman and CEO of the PNOC-Energy Development Corp.



**BOUNTIFUL CATCH**

**Jess Bartolome (left) and his 15-year-old son Jess Jr. flank their four sailfish hooked during the recent 3-day AAD Sportsfishing Tournament of PGFF in Cagayan, which won them second place boat team honors behind the champion team of Efren Chua Yap and Rey Buencamino. Placing third were Mayenn Ordoveza and Rico Gueco.**

# Nazareth netfest set

ADIDAS Philippines recently confirmed its commitment to youth sports when the Nazareth Tennis Club in Cagayan de Oro hosts the kickoff leg of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2002 on April 21-23.

"The Adidas Tennis Challenge is just one of the many developmental sports programs that we have committed to support for the benefit of the Filipino youth," chorused Adidas managing director John Alonte and trade and promo manager Goody Custodio.

# Mandaluyong derby today

THE 9TH Ucap San Pedro GP Bacolod Group 7-Cock Derby championship round gets underway today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum with Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug as sponsors.

Longshot entries Starwars Altuz of lawyer Ram Lopez and Tony Litonjua, TR Phoenix BL of Tito Reyes and Mario Villamor and BJ Greenwoood I of Ucap president Butch Macasaet are the current frontrunners after posting three victories each Tuesday night.

Within striking distance are Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master), fresh form ruling the 52-entry LCC 7-Cock Derby, and OPMI president Vic Yu (Sir Vincent) who tallied 2.5 points apiece.

With two victories are Arnis Master I, Sto. Cristo GP, EGT Stinger, Sagupaan Hammer, What A Guy GF-Ban, Guts and Glory, Christina, BJ Greenwood, Bumble Bee Balbina, Roadmaster and R and B Farm I.

A beautiful silver cup will be awarded to the champion by derby hosts Jet Fernando, Ramon Mansenares and the Bacolod group.

For other inquiries, call 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

## RACING TIPS

### At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Witch Craft 2. Impeccable 3. Roman Dance
Race 2—1. Precious Time 2. Oh Diva 3. Full Blast
Race 3—1. Flirt 2. Diamond Buck
Race 4—1. Snowy Sea 2. Time Specialist 3. Merry Weather 4. Armee's Hope 5. Queen of D Jungle
Race 5—1. Velocity/ Playing With Fire 2. Countess Diana
Race 6—1. Overland 2. Aya's Star 3. Charmingly Chit 4. Opening Prospect 5. He's Splendid
Race 7—1. Dazzling Doe 2. Might and Power 3. American Music 4. Spectacular Lady 5. Mahdi's Gold
Race 8—1. High and Mighty 2. Main Street 3. Rikitik 4. Green Buck
Race 9—1. King Aldrin 2. Arabica 3. Victory Lap 4. Something Silver 5. Power Corrupts 6. Sir Olizon

# SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** • Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

### Holyfield-Rahman fight June 1

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey—Former heavyweight champions Evander Holyfield and Hasim Rahman will meet in a June 1 bout that marks Don King's return to New Jersey as a promoter for the first time in four years. The boxers were scheduled to announce the fight Wednesday in New York City. *AP*

### SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

**BASKETBALL**: NBA at 10 p.m. on NBN 4

**TENNIS**: Masters Series (Monte-Carlo), Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 9 a.m. (r), Early Round Coverage Day #3 at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

**GOLF**: Senior PGA Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, Final Round at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

# 4As slots await Nat'l Open winners

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**THOSE who will win in the Milo National Open invitational track and field championships on May 1-4 will get a taste of big-time competition because they will be automatically seeded in the prestigious third leg of the Asian Amateur Athletics Association Grand Prix to be held here later that month.**

This was the promise of Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, who declared that athletes who will figure prominently in the Nationals can earn slots in the Grand Prix whether or not they are already part of the national team.

He said the move aims to discover new talents from the provinces and to motivate them by lining them up against the cream of the crop.

"It doesn't matter if they are already part of the national team or they are untested athletes from faraway provinces. As long as they can show their worth in the National Open, they get a chance to compete in Grand Prix.

"The nationals won't be just a showcase of talents for the country's best athletes but also an opportunity to gauge our strength against foreign athletes," said Go.

Athletics, which turned in the most gold medals during last year's Southeast Asian Games with nine, is among the sports which is counted upon to win medals for the country in the Busan Asian Games in September.

Go said the national athletes' mettle will be tested in the Manila Grand Prix on May 26 since it will pit the top six athletes in 15 selected events according to the 4As order of merit.

And as a host country, the Philippines has the luxury of fielding in two athletes in each of the event.

"Although I know that these raw talents will have a hard time competing against the best six athletes in Asia, it will be a good chance to expose them to world class competitions," added Go.

Already, there are six countries which confirmed their participation in the Nationals, also known as the Gov. Jose Sering Cup, but more competitors are expected to come, according to Go.

Those who vowed to send athletes are Brunei, Hong Kong, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Malaysia.

## Athletes lounge inauguration set tomorrow

THE ATHLETES and Coaches Lounge, a multi-million-peso facility at the heart of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, will be inaugurated tomorrow.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain will lead the ceremonies, which will include the celebration of Holy Mass and a meeting among athletes, coaches, national sports association presidents and PSC officials.

Also expected to grace the event is Rep. Monico Puentevella, chair of the House Committee on Youth and Sports and president of the Philippine Weightlifting Association.

Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. director Luis Carlos and Centrum President Eduardo Mendoza — who are among those who funded the lounge — also confirmed their presence.

Bishop Teodor Bacani will officiate the Holy Mass at 3 p.m.

Buhain said he hopes the establishment can serve as symbol of the PSC's sincerity in looking after the welfare of the athletes and coaches. The PSC chief earlier announced that the construction of the athletes' dormitories is now underway.

The lounge is located at the second floor of the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center which is formerly occupied by the Philippine Tennis Association.

The air-conditioned facility has a floor area of 150 square meters and is equipped with computer units with internet access, audio-video system, dart boards and a billiards table donated by former world bowling ace Bong Coo.

"We are now realizing the impact of the private sector's support to sports," said Buhain in tapping different corporate sponsors for the construction of the lounge.

He said Centrum alone donated P500,000 for the lounge, while other companies also chipped in like Air Philippines, WG&A Shipping, Philtranco, San Miguel Beer and X-ile Sound System.

"We expect the athletes to feel the comfort in the lounge," said Buhain, who was himself a multi-awarded athlete. "An athlete's life is not all training and competing, they also have to unwind and they need not go too far to do that." *Marc Anthony Reyes*

## Rubillar stakes title vs Gamboa

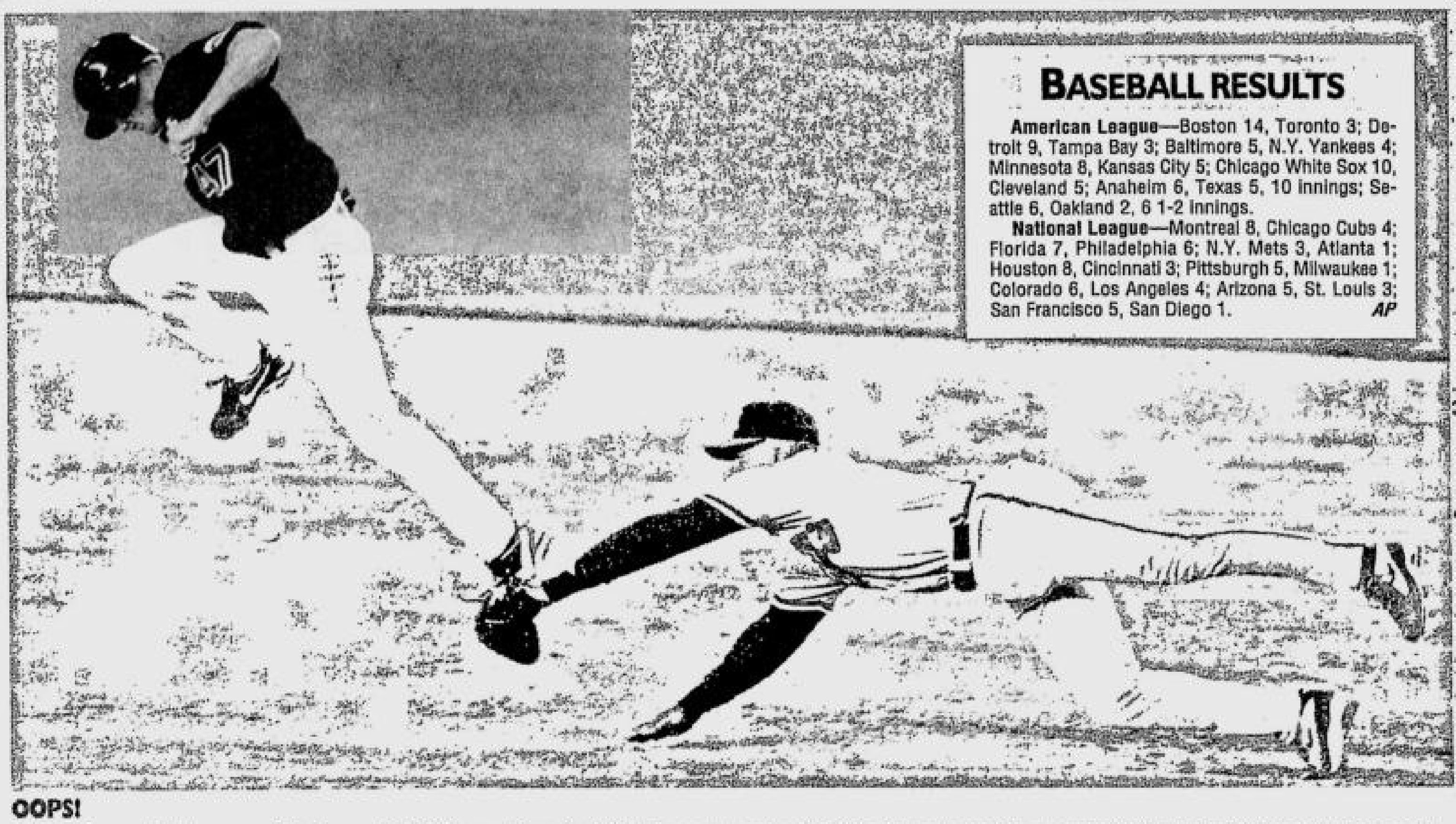
WORLD Boxing Council international lightweight champion Juanito Rubillar stakes his crown against Joma Gamboa on May 18 at the Elorde gym in Parañaque.

Rubillar, who won the crown over Korean Jin Ho Kim on May 27, 2000, will defend his crown for the third time. But it is going to be the first time, he will stake it against a fellow Filipino.

"I know what Joma is capable of doing," said Rubillar, whose training is being monitored by former Philippine flyweight champ Renato Busayong. "That's why I'm preparing very well for this fight."

Rubillar boasts of 26 wins, eight by knockouts, eight losses and five draws. Gamboa's slate is 31 wins (21 by KO), seven losses and one draw.

The fight is being organized by Elorde International Productions led by boxing promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr.



### BASEBALL RESULTS

**American League**—Boston 14, Toronto 3; Detroit 9, Tampa Bay 3; Baltimore 5, N.Y. Yankees 4; Minnesota 8, Kansas City 5; Chicago White Sox 10, Cleveland 5; Anaheim 6, Texas 5, 10 innings; Seattle 6, Oakland 2, 6 1-2 innings.

**National League**—Montreal 8, Chicago Cubs 4; Florida 7, Philadelphia 6; N.Y. Mets 3, Atlanta 1; Houston 8, Cincinnati 3; Pittsburgh 5, Milwaukee 1; Colorado 6, Los Angeles 4; Arizona 5, St. Louis 3; San Francisco 5, San Diego 1. *AP*

**OOPS!**

**Atlanta Braves first baseman Julio Franco (right) dives as New York Mets base runner Joe McEwing jumps to avoid a grounder by Mets' Rey Ordonez in the second inning of their National League match on Monday at the Shea Stadium in New York. The Mets won, 3-1. In an American League game, the Detroit Tigers beat the Tampa Devils Rays, 9-3, for their first win after 11 straight losses.**

## Unknown Bohol NM steals limelight

**Standings after four rounds:**
Men's: Garma, Sumngat 4 points: Zuniga, Olay, Martinez, Roca, Legaspi, Sales, Bancod, Manabilang 3.5; Cabrido, Dableo, Datu, Unding, Sayson, Nadera, Dimakiling, Nadera, Nava, Donguines, Branzuela 3.

ELMER Sumngat, a relatively unknown National Master from Tagbilaran, Bohol, grabbed the spotlight yesterday after climbing into a share of the lead with IM Chito Garma in the fourth round of the National Chess Championship at the Centermall of the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

Sumngat, who earned his NM title in the National Open in 1998, dumped former national junior champion and NM Yves Ranola after only 28 moves of a Sicilian-Dragon for his fourth victory in as many rounds.

Sumngat, who works as a liason officer for the provincial government of Bohol, is seeded only 37th.

But Sumngat will next face a formidable opponent in Garma, a former Olympian who has also remained unbeaten after four rounds.

Garma's latest victim was Alex Milagrosa, the surprise co-leader in the third round after beating top seed Ronald Dableo.

In the women's side, WNM Rusela Joya continued to live up to her top billing after raking in her fourth straight point at the expense of 18th seed Sherily Cua.

Joya, who finished third in last year's edition of the National Chess Championship, had Cua in trouble after giving up her bishop and knight in exchange for a rook and two pawns.

## Exalta's 'guardian angel' lauded

MATNOG, Sorsogon—Apart from the vast experience of the Nissan Exalta GS Superio's army of drivers and navigators, the sedan's 30-day non-stop journey around the country relies heavily on the assistance provided by the Asian Navigation and Tracking System (ANTS).

From the moment the Exalta, sporting a sparkling silver color was let loose at the chic Eastwood City in Quezon City on April 5, ANTS has been monitoring the progress of its trips to Quezon province , Bicolandia, Visayas, Mindanao, Central Luzon and Ilocandia using highly sophisticated navigation equipment.

"ANTS is the guardian angel of the Exalta," said seasoned racer Ike Borja, who took over the wheel when the 1.6-liter with 116 horsepower sedan was given a clean bill of health by top mechanics at Nissan Mantrade.

Willie Ingles logged over 1,300 kilometers when he made the run to northern Luzon beginning early Monday morning.

When he made it back to Manila, the Exalta was rushed to Nissan Mantrada for a checkup prior to its departure for Visayas and Mindanao via Bicol.

The triumvirate of Borja, Juvy Catajoy and Lester Susi then took charge going here for another ferry crossing on board the Maharlika 5.

The Caltex Havoline odometer now reads 11,392 kilometers after Ingles' back-breaking run in Ilocandia and in the cities and towns of Samar and Leyte by Borja's crew.

## Cordero, Cabral rule archery tourney

ARCHER Marvin R. Cordero tallied 1287 points in the single Fita round to earn a slot in the Philippine team to the Busan Asian Games in the first NAAP (National Archery Association of the Philippines) qualifying tournament held recently at the UP-PSC range in Diliman, Quezon City.

The 19-year-old Cordero missed tying the national record by a point, but he easily surpassed the 1260 criteria set by the NAAP and the POC-PSC Task Force and the bronze winning score of 1228 in the Bangkok Asiad.

Rachelle Anne Cabral, a 16-year-old junior from Lagro High School (QC) also turned in an impressive performance by scoring 1240 points in her first official Fita tournament, in the process beating veterans Joanne Tabanag (1233), Jennifer Chan (1224) and Adelinda Figueroa (1201).

Cabral also earned a Fita star for 1000, 1100 and 1200.

Tabanag did well in the Olympic round to top the women's event, followed by Busan-bound Purita Joy Marino, Cabral, Figueroa and Chan.

Bryan Carlo Figueroa ruled the men's competition, followed by Florante Matan, Cordero, Christian Cubilla and Arnold Rojas.

Raul Ramon Arambulo dominated the compound bow division, posting 1326 in the single Fita round and 111 in the Olympic round.

## 5-cock derby on tap

A WHOPPING guaranteed prize of P.1 million is up for grabs at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City on April 22 and 24 in a 5-cock derby hosted by Galleros de Manila.

Spearheading the group are Iking Araneta, Jimmyton Araneta, William Go, Lito Alcantara, Emmit San Juan and Gene Avandano.

Invited are big-time cocking aficionados from different provinces and Metro Manila.

The entry fee is P11,000 while the minimum bet is P11,000. The handler and the gaffer will receive P70,000 and P30,000 respectively.

For inquiries, call Rizelle at 893-2093 opr Lakay at 0917-2425916.

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ZARO ODROME

**TRAINER'S TROPHY**

**PCSO Chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" S. De leon (second from left) awards the PCSO Grand Championship Race trophy to trainer Renato C. Hipolito following the victory of Family Task in last Sunday's featured P1-million race at the San Lazaro Hippodrome. Also shown (from left) are MJCI President Alfonso Reyno Jr., Philracom Chair Andrew Sanchez and PCSO Committee on Races Chair Jose Malang.**

## Ateneo meets slated

THE ATENEO de Zamboanga Metro Manila Alumni Association will hold its 1st Quarter Fellowship Sports Festivity on April 20.

Sports committee chair Jaime Panganiban said the one-day sports activity will be held in two venues.

The golf tournament will tee-off at Camp Aguinaldo at 7 a.m. and the bowling tourney, at the Quezon City Sports Club starting at 1 p.m.

Panganiban said awarding ceremonies and fellowship will be held at the QCSC later in the evening.

Alumni President Paulino Pe said Zamboangueños in Metro Manila and ADZUMMAA members are welcomed to attend the sportsfest in the name of solidarity.

For more details, call Gaea Gaetos at 0917-532-5071 or Edna dela Cruz at 926-9056 to 58.

## Pimentel dartfest in C.de Oro

A CASH prize of P100,000 will be at stake in a three-day major dart tournament to be held in Cagayan de Oro City starting tomorrow.

Lawyer Andrew L. Arrieta, president of the Darts Council of the Philippines, said winners in the Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. Cup will be declared Philippine champions and automatically qualify them for selection in the Philippine darts team that will represent the country in the Asia Pacific Cup in September this year and the World Cup in Epenal, France, in 2003.

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| Pampanga Agricultural Coll. | Joubert Cocjin & Roldan Garcia |
| DLSU- Dasmariñas | Edgar Paule & Reygan Espora |
| VISAYAS-MINDANAO | |
| WOMEN'S Division | |
| South Western University | Janeth Ponio & Florina Gutierrez |
| Foundation University | Charlo Mae Bolacola & Rolyn Marquidez |
| MEN'S Division | |
| Foundation University | Kent Bulabon & Isidro Bongcasan |
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These teams will battle it out with Metro Manila Qualifiers in the Boracay National Finals on May 11 - 12!

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# Militants hit Atienza

# METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

By Philip C. Tubeza

**MILITANT groups yesterday charged that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's "no permit, no rally" policy would only give police leeway to beat up protestors.**

"It would not solve the problem of violent dispersal," said Miller Morante, sec-gen of the Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Demokrasya. "Freedom of expression is a right not a privilege to be handed out by City Hall. Will we wait for some unfortunate people to die at the hands of these goons in uniform before something must be done to boot these scalawags out of (the) service?"

ATIENZA

"Instead of pointing fingers at protestors, they should owe up to their mistake and lack of concern for human rights," Morante added.

Police violently dispersed 20 members of the Youth for Nationalism and Democracy, KPD's youth arm, in front of the US Embassy on Monday after the protestors tried to throw paint bombs at the embassy.

Atienza ruled on Tuesday that lightning rallies would no longer be allowed in Manila because such actions are meant "to cause disturbance."

But the militants said nobody should curtail the citizens' freedom of expression and assembly.

Morante also said the investigation of the embassy incident should be conducted by an "independent body" in order to prevent a whitewash.

"We demand that the investigating body be independent from the perpetrators of the crime to ensure that justice would be served to the victims of police brutality," Morante said.

"Protests will only intensify and protestors will not be cowed by such fascists antics as long as Balikatan continues to make a mockery of Philippine sovereignty," Morante added.

YND members are protesting the deployment of US troops in the country for the RP-US Balikatan war games.

Besides the violent dispersal of militants on Monday, the police also came under fire after they allegedly beat up members of the Union of Masses for Democracy and Justice during a rally in front of the Supreme Court on Friday.

## *Rich slay suspect is 'not in hiding'*

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PRIVATE nurse allegedly shot dead by a wealthy businesswoman inside a BMW sedan in Las Piñas last week will be buried on Saturday at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

Belma Abella, 46, was reportedly shot dead by Marybeth de Leon, wife of Jose Vicente Madrigal de Leon, during a heated argument in front of the BF International Village.

Police are still looking for De Leon, a resident of posh Ayala-Alabang village in Muntinlupa, who has refused to coordinate with Las Piñas investigators, according to SPO4 Ben Javier.

But the law firm representing the suspect issued a statement the other day denying De Leon "is at large, or that no one has coordinated with the authorities" regarding the investigation.

"No warrant has been issued against our client," according to a statement signed by Alexander Poblador of the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes law offices. "(De Leon) has not fled and she is not in hiding. We are operating, consistent with our client's constitutional rights, with the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) which has been apprised of her whereabouts."

Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, yesterday said Abella's family had sought the VACC's assistance to ensure that the killer will be put behind bars.

Jimenez said he will meet with Abella's live-in partner, Zandro Andrada, this morning to discuss the case.

Police currently have two witnesses against De Leon. They are 31-year-old Wensis Tablang, the suspect's bodyguard-driver, and Conrado Erasca, security guard of BF International Village.

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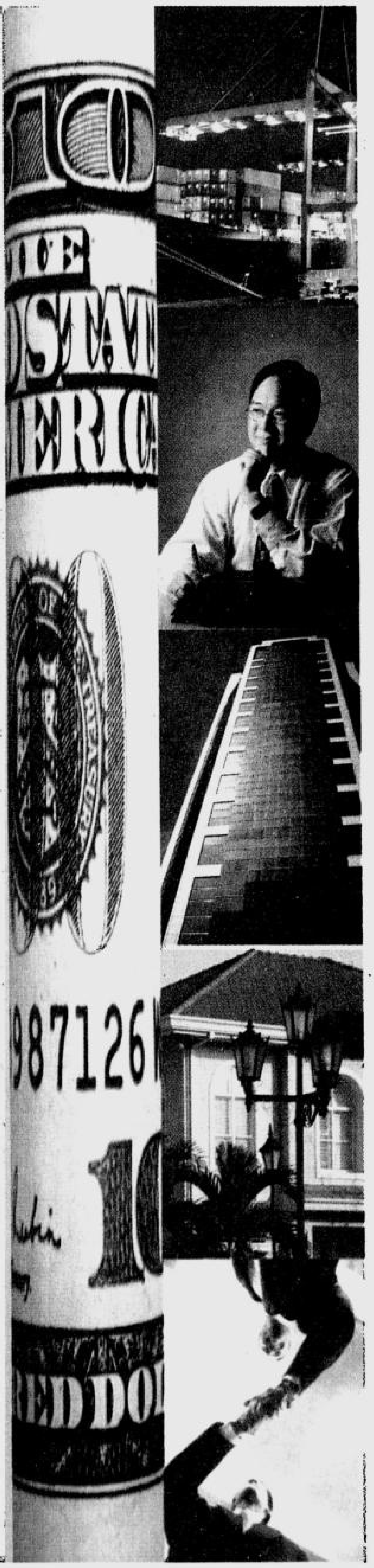
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# Police official behind colorum bus syndicate

REPORTS about the existence of a big syndicate behind the proliferation of colorum buses in Metro Manila, particularly along Edsa, have rocked the transport sector.

The syndicate protecting the colorum buses is reportedly being headed by a police official.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez yesterday directed top officials of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to conduct an immediate investigation.

He ordered LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso and LTFRB head Dante Lantin to submit their findings to him as soon as possible.

Alvarez said he would also coordinate with the officials of the Metro Manila Development Authority on how to further improve their drive against colorum buses and smoke-belching vehicles.

Despite a campaign by the Department of Transportation and Communications against colorum buses and smoke-belchers, no visible improvement in traffic and pollution has been noted.

Alvarez said they would intensify the campaign.

"I wish to assure the public that we will continue our campaign without let-up," he said.

The DOTC chief noted that buses along Edsa have suffered a substantial decrease in ridership as a result of the growing popularity of the MRT railway system.

"The law of supply and demand will eventually catch up with the inefficient mode of transportation. People have seen the convenience, speed and safety of the mass transit systems, so there would be less demand for buses," he said.

Alvarez said colorum buses and smoke-belchers will have decreased business as a result of diminished ridership.

Just the same, Alvarez said LTO and LTFRB will coordinate with the MMDA in running after the reported syndicate behind colorum buses.

"I ask the cooperation and assistance of bus organizations and legitimate owners of public utility buses not to deal with syndicates offering protection. Only the government can provide protection for them," he said.

## *Padi's Point, 2 others padlocked*

THREE restaurants have been ordered closed by the Makati City government for too much noise and for violation of the National Building Code.

The Makati Engineering Department padlocked Padi's Point, Tia Maria's and Bedrock all located on Jupiter Street, Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City on April 12.

City Engineer Nelson B. Morales said the closure was prompted by complaints from the Bel-Air Village Association and other commercial establishments in the area which charged that the three bars continued to operate with loud live bands.

Acting on the complaints, Morales dispatched his team from the Building and Official's Office to inspect the three establishments.

The inspectors found out that management of the three did not have any permit to use their establishments for live entertainment.

It was also discovered that they did not have any "permit for occupancy" as stipulated by the National Building Code.

The permit of the three establishments to operate, which they had secured from Barangay Bel-Air, only allowed them to operate as "bar and restaurant" and not as a venue for live performances.

The establishments will remain closed until have they complied with the law, authorities said. *Alcuin Papa, Alaina Labit, Christian Castro, Regina Rubio*

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

**GRIM STRUGGLE**

**A member of the Makati police force tries grimly to prevent members of the militant Anakbayan from causing further damage to the Caltex Office on Ayala Ave. which the militants had smeared with paint to protest the new round of oil price increases.**

# Bad day for colonel, camp commander

**By Christian Esguerra and Martin Marfil**

A RETIRED military colonel was ambushed by two men on a motorcycle in Las Piñas yesterday morning hours after the commander of Camp Aguinaldo lost his aunt in a fire that hit his house in Quezon City.

Col. Jesus Tuling, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1965 and a resident of BF Resort Village in Las Piñas, suffered two gunshot wounds on the chest, said PO3 Aristotle Raquion.

He remained in serious condition yesterday.

The aunt of Brig. Gen. Celso Castro died in the blaze that hit his residence inside Camp Aguinaldo. Two others were injured in the blaze.

Killed in the one-hour blaze was Soledad Castro, 70. She reportedly died of suffocation.

Police were looking into the possibility that the foiled attempt on Tuling's life could be a result of his reported rift with a business partner over their security agency, Raquion said.

The victim was in front of Barrio Fiesta Restaurant on Alabang-Zapote Road in Barangay Pamplona when two gunmen on a motorcycle fired at him at around 8:30 a.m., investigation showed.

Injured in the Camp Crame blaze were Nenita Castro and Ramon Castro, wife and son respectively of the camp commander.

They were brought to Makati Medical Center.

According to Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga, AFP spokesperson, the fire started around 1 a.m. when members of the Castro were awakened by thick smoke coming from the kitchen.

The fire quickly spread and was placed under control an hour later.

Investigators were looking into the possibility that the fire was caused by faulty wiring.

Castro refused to comment on the incident.

# Valle Verde Gang remnants arrested

**By Alcuin Papa**

INVESTIGATORS from the National Capital Region Police Office busted what remained of the notorious Valle Verde gang with the arrest of the alleged leader and his cohorts in Taguig.

The NCRPO's Regional Intelligence Service Operation Office (RISOO) said Rod Reyes, 32, of Bagong Lipunan Condominium Tenement, Taguig, led the remnants of the group of car thieves, and was arrested on April 13 after a week of "intensive surveillance."

Police also arrested Reyes' alleged cohorts Jojo Carino, 28, Carmelo Guico, 39, and Efren Carino, 45, all of Poblacion Manaoag, Pangasinan; and Giovanni Hermonio of Taguig and Christopher Aceirto, 36, of San Mateo, Rizal.

Last week, Marife Atienza, 25, of West Rembo, Makati City, went to the NCRPO and reported the theft of her Nissan Vanette. She told police that the vehicle was stolen while it was parked between 2 and 3 p.m. on April 1, at the parking lot of the Tenement housing in Taguig.

On orders of RISOO head Supt. Bayani dela Rea, police conducted the surveillance, which led to the arrest of the suspects.

Police seized from the suspects a .45-caliber Colt pistol, ammunition and an MK2 fragmentation grenade.

The suspects have already been charged before the City Prosecutor of Rizal.

Two years ago, members of the defunct Presidental Anti Organized Crime Task Force broke up the original Valle Verde gang in an entrapment and arrested Florencio Fianza Jr., son of former traffic czar Florencio Fianza, Reynan Morales, Norman Delman, and Roberto Naval.

A day later, the PAOCTF also arrested the Manlongat brothers, said to be the sons of a Bureau of Internal Revenue executive living in Valle Verde in Pasig City, and John Umale.

All suspects are now out on bail while their cases are being heard.

## *'Computerized' wedding*

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

GLICERIO T. Lee is getting married but Manila policemen are out not to congratulate him.

He's wanted for stealing P100,000 worth of computer parts.

The would-be groom took the effects allegedly to fund his coming wedding.

Police are now looking for Lee, a resident of Panapaan IV Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila who allegedly stole three computer game boards worth P100,000 from the arcade stock of businessman Paul C. Chia, 40.

According to investigator SPO1 Celso Pier Tan of the Western Police District's Theft and Robbery Section, Lee lost his job at the arcade on the second floor of the Juan Luna Plaza Mall on Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila, in October last year.

Tan said Lee visited the arcade Thursday night and talked to his former co-worker Federico Cruz.

Cruz told police he did not notice anything unusual when the suspect visited around 6:30 p.m.

"I just dropped by because I really need money for my coming wedding," Cruz quoted the suspect as saying in Filipino.

Cruz added he was sure that nothing was missing when he closed the arcade around 7 p.m.

But when he and another employee opened the arcade around 9 a.m. on Friday, the three game boards were already missing.

A witness told investigators he saw the suspect carrying the parts around 7:45 a.m. on Friday.

"(The witness) said he did not confront the suspect because he thought Lee was still working at the arcade," SPO1 Tan said.

# Prosecutor caught with grease money

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested a Parañaque City prosecutor after he was caught red-handed receiving P30,000 in "grease money" which the suspect allegedly demanded from a businessman.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Prosecutor Apolinar C. Quetulio Jr., 53, of Mabituin Street, Masambong, Quezon City, allegedly demanded money from Rey L. Namoco, owner of Dels Trucking Service.

The mobile group of the National Capital Region Police Office held the businessman's truck and three employees last week on suspicion that they were transporting stolen coffee products, according to lawyer Oscar L. Embido, NBI-Intelligence Special Operations Division.

But up to Monday, Namoco's truck and employees were still held by police, even after Quetulio ordered the release of the person who hired the truck and owned the alleged stolen products.

When Namoco approached the prosecutor to arrange for the release of his employees and truck, the suspect demanded P60,000, Embido said.

Quetulio allegedly even threatened to file robbery, hijacking, and car theft charges against Namoco's three employees, which would have forced the businessman to shell out a bigger amount just to bail out his employees.

Alarmed, Namoco agreed to negotiate and was able to convince Quetulio to lower his demand to P40,000.

The complainant said he paid the prosecutor a down payment of P10,000 and then reported the matter to the NBI.

Embido said NBI agents arrested the suspect in an entrapment on Tuesday, just as Quetulio was receiving P30,000 from the complainant.

# Scavengers out of danger

THE FORTY-NINE scavengers believed poisoned by toxic waste at the dumpsite in Barangay Citrus, San Jose del Monte are now "out of danger," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit announced yesterday.

In a visit to the site, Dayrit identified the poisonous chemical inhaled by the scavengers as brenthamine red, a substance found in expired dyeing materials.

If the chemical is inhaled, the veins in the body would become compact and prevent red blood cells from circulating and the oxygen from getting in, he said.

Late last month, the victims, mostly children, were treated in various Metro Manila hospitals for a week after they complained of severe headache, nausea, blackening of fingertips and lips, and difficulty in breathing.

Dayrit had asked Mayor Eduardo Roquero to report to Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez about the presence of toxic materials at the dumpsite.

*Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# NPA will not obey Joma Sison

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

THE NEW People's Army (NPA) has reportedly taken on the military might of the US, the world's superpower. People in the know can't help but smile. They know that if the report is true, the NPA issued the challenge tongue in cheek.

Jose Ma. Sison, chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has issued an order to the NPA, his military arm, to attack US soldiers taking part in the war exercise with Filipino soldiers.

It's like the ant picking a fight with the elephant.

***

**Too much of a good time in the Netherlands has probably addled Joma Sison's brains. He has probably forgotten the fighting capability of the best-equipped soldiers in the world.**

**Doesn't Sison know that the suicidal Abu Sayyafs in Basilan run like scared dogs whenever they learn that some Americans soldiers are with Filipino troops on patrol?**

**The Moro terrorists know that if they ambush a government patrol with US soldiers in it, reinforcements aboard helicopters will be at the ambush site within minutes. Helicopters carrying missiles will bomb the Abu Sayyaf position.**

***

I doubt if the NPA will obey Sison's order to shoot US troops taking part in the war exercise. Battle-hardened NPA guerrillas are not that stupid.

Besides, many of them now question Joma Sison's leadership because he gives orders from the safety and comfort of a foreign country.

Sison's order will fall on deaf ears.

***

**The Americans who accompany Filipino troops on patrol in Basilan war games are not ordinary foot soldiers. As a ballad goes, they are "fighting soldiers from the sky, these men are America's best."**

**The American soldiers in Basilan belong to the cream of the crop in the US military. All they do is practice all year round for deployment to any part of the world.**

**They're always waiting for a time to put their constant war footing to good use.**

***

My friend, Christopher Ricketts (he's the brother of the famous actor), an expert in knife-fighting and arnis, Filipino stick fighting, was once invited by the US Special Forces to teach some Green Berets arnis and knife handling.

Ricketts expressed amazement at the stamina and endurance of his former students from the Delta Force, an elite unit within US Army Special Forces. *"Para silang mga superman,* Mon," he said.

Another friend, Jim Robertson, a half-American who runs a dive shop at the Subic Bay complex, said Green Berets would run every day for miles and miles carrying their rifles, full packs and full load of ammunition. And yet, after a hard day at the field, they still had time for a few rounds of beer before retiring for the night. Green Berets are tireless and full of fighting spirit, according to Jim, himself a former Green Beret.

These are the kind of US soldiers that Joma Sison wants his guerrillas to take on ?

***

**On Monday, a major daily (not the INQUIRER), quoted in its banner story Zamboanga City *Chinoy* businessman Lepeng Wee as saying that backdoor negotiations were underway in Sabah for the release of an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse being held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf.**

**It seems the newspaper was given a bum steer. *"Nakuryente,"* as police reporters would say of colleagues who were given a false story.**

**"Mon, I never talked to any reporter about anything concerning. How come they attributed to me a story about negotiations for the release of the Americans and the nurse?" said Wee. " Who is this Edith Regalado who wrote the story?"**

**Lepeng, it's unethical to deny the story of another newspaper. I suggest you talk to the editors of that newspaper.**

***

One controversy after another has been dogging Wee, who was once close to former President Erap.

Several months ago, he was reported to have accompanied Sen. Panfilo Lacson to Malaysia several months ago to talk with Moro leader Nur Misuari before he was repatriated to the country. The report was later found to be without basis.

"I am leading a quiet life, why do they keep reporting false stories about me?" he asked me.

The answer is simple, Lepeng. Your enemies want to destroy you!

By the way, Wee and Erap had a falling out before Edsa II because Erap sided with his political enemy.

***

**Controversial Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto is in trouble because of what he did for a friend, Nang Kong Sze.**

**Maganto rushed to the detention center of the Bureau of Immigration and tried to force a detainee, Feng Shao Xu, to tell him where Feng was keeping his friend's wife and son.**

**Feng is a quack doctor who allegedly ran away with Nang's wife and is also hiding Nang's son. Up to now, the Nang's wife and son are still missing.**

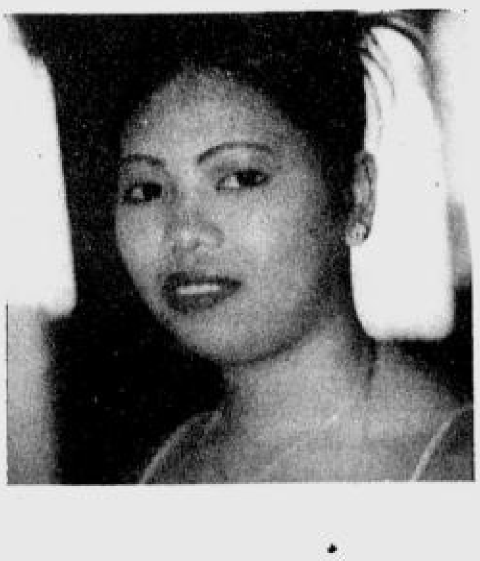
***

Maganto is being tried by his fellow generals at the Philippine National Police for conduct unbecoming to a police general.

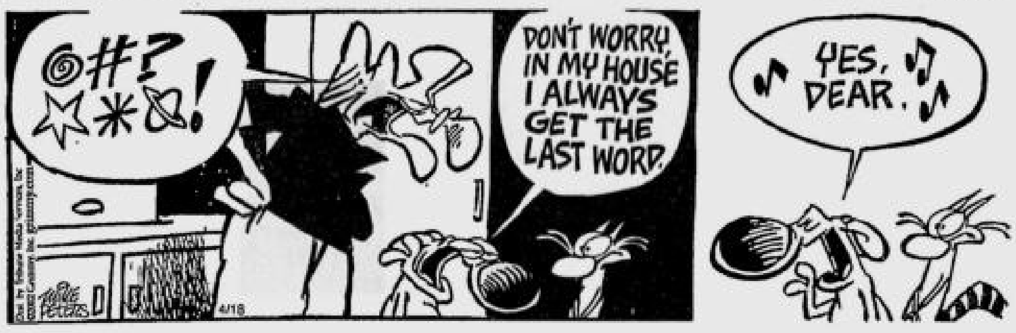
I agree Maganto committed a wrongdoing. He had no business interfering in the job of another government agency. He should have asked immigration people to make the detainee Feng tell them where he was keeping his friend's wife and child.

But I plead for understanding for Maganto. He did it out of loyalty to a friend. Anyway, the guy that he harassed at the immigration detention center was up to no good.

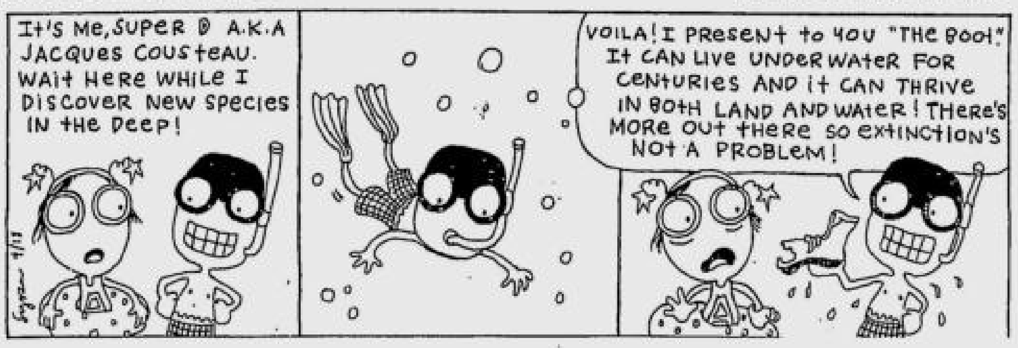
**WHERE'S SHE? Jenny C. Porras of 141 Aglipay Street, Mandaluyong City, has been missing since March 18. If you know where she is, please call her parents Norma and Antonio Porras, through Anna Cruz, at 531-0020.**



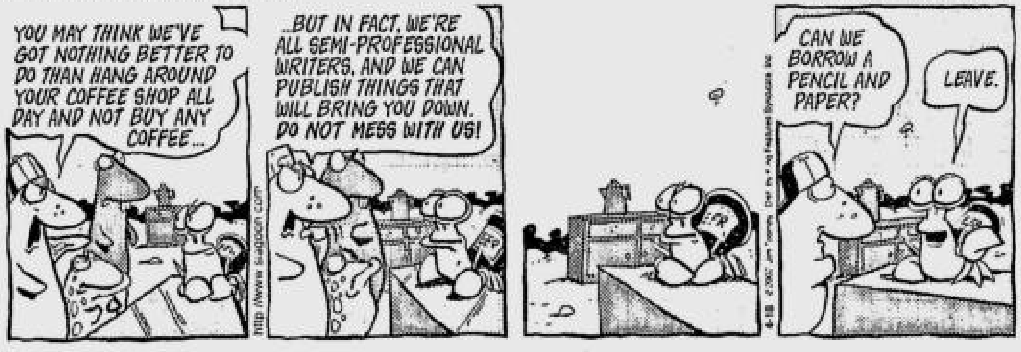
**MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM** BY MIKE PETERS


@#?☆✱♁!
DON'T WORRY, IN MY HOUSE I ALWAYS GET THE LAST WORD.
YES, DEAR.
4/18

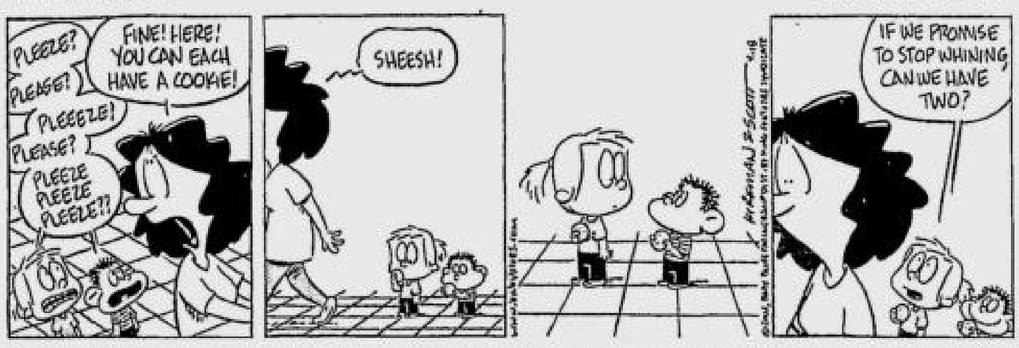
**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO


It's Me, SUPER D A.K.A JACQUES COUSTEAU. WAIT HERE WHILE I DISCOVER NEW SPECIES IN THE DEEP!
VOILA! I PRESENT TO YOU "THE BOOT." IT CAN LIVE UNDERWATER FOR CENTURIES AND IT CAN THRIVE IN BOTH LAND AND WATER! THERE'S MORE OUT THERE SO EXTINCTION'S NOT A PROBLEM!

**SHERMAN'S LAGOON** BY JIM TOOMEY


YOU MAY THINK WE'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN HANG AROUND YOUR COFFEE SHOP ALL DAY AND NOT BUY ANY COFFEE...
...BUT IN FACT, WE'RE ALL SEMI-PROFESSIONAL WRITERS, AND WE CAN PUBLISH THINGS THAT WILL BRING YOU DOWN. DO NOT MESS WITH US!
CAN WE BORROW A PENCIL AND PAPER?
LEAVE.
http://www.slagoon.com

**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


PLEEZE? PLEASE? PLEEEZE! PLEASE? PLEEZE PLEEZE PLEEZE??
FINE! HERE! YOU CAN EACH HAVE A COOKIE!
SHEESH!
IF WE PROMISE TO STOP WHINING, CAN WE HAVE TWO?

## HOROSCOPE

### BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rick Moranis, Hayley Mills, Conan O'Brien

Happy Birthday: Social activities will be plentiful this year. Expect your creative abilities to surface. Plan a special vacation this year. You can make money through investments but don't take financial risks. You will be concerned about your health and well-being especially if you have been working long hours. Your numbers are 9, 12, 18, 27, 36, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Things may not run smoothly at home today. You may take things the wrong way or overreact to what is going on around you. Back up and try to stay calm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be in an entertaining and social mood today. Pleasure trips will enhance love and romance. Catch up on correspondence or visit people that you don't get to see often.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Opportunities are apparent if you give yourself a chance. You must have a greater belief in your potential. Attend a seminar that will boost your confidence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't get involved with government agencies today unless you are prepared to put up with the frustrations that you will encounter. Focus on family matters.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have to keep your intentions a secret today. If you let too many people in on what you are doing you stand to face competition. Work on home-improvement projects or investments.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have a lot to offer an intellectual group that you join. Be careful not to give too much of your time or money. You can meet some interesting people today if you aren't too shy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can expect to encounter problems at home. Someone you live with will be unpredictable. Problems with your house must be taken care of immediately. Things will cost more than you anticipate. Get a second opinion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will have a greater interest in cultural differences and tradition. You should take a look at your family tree. It may help you understand your family and your past a little better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be able to take advantage of a great deal today. Your ability to know what will work will help you make the right decisions. Don't let a partner take advantage of your good nature.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be in the mood for love and romance. If you are too pushy you may not be well received. Talk to someone you respect in order to get some sound advice.

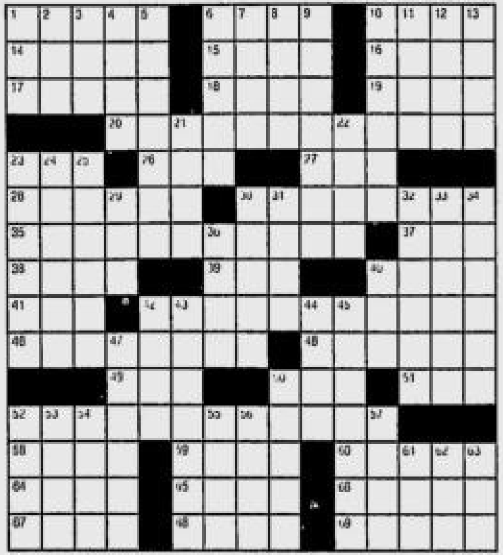
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make career changes if you want. An apprenticeship will help you raise your earning potential. Learning new skills will lead to an exciting change of scene.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your creative ability will be at an all-time high and should be put to good use. Social events will bring you in contact with interesting people. You can make physical changes that will enhance your appearance.

Birthday Baby: You will need to be allowed the freedom to come and go as you please. Your beliefs will play an important role in your life. You will be insightful and therefore will know instinctively what is required of you.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

4/18/02

**ACROSS**
1 Poison ivy's cousin
6 Door hardware
10 Austen heroine
14 Bakery bouquet
15 Author Ferber
16 Christmas in Paris
17 Beatles' song, "Glass __"
18 Harvest
19 Apple choice
20 Macho trait
23 Naughty
26 Charged particle
27 Peke's bark
28 Where whales roam
30 Rubber bands
35 Macho trait
37 Sticky stuff
38 Soft cheese
39 Uncountable years
40 Tolstoy novel, "__ Karenina"
41 Green Card org.
42 Macho trait
46 Alienate
48 Accumulate
49 Best guess, for short
50 To's companion
51 Make a blunder
52 Macho trait
58 Otherwise
59 Talks sweetly
60 Leavening ingredient
64 Demeanor
65 "Say it ___ so!"
66 Sample
67 Nautical left
68 Bunny moms
69 Type of alcohol

**DOWN**
1 __ Paulo, Brazil
2 Samovar
3 Me, to Miss Piggy
4 Old Testament prophet
5 Southwestern saloon
6 Large wading bird
7 Indian Ocean gulf
8 Glitch
9 Tropical fruits
10 Filled with delight
11 Earth orbiter
12 Written reminder
13 TV host Trebek
21 Diana of the Supremes
22 Back talk
23 Pop singer Gentry
24 Squirrel snacks
25 Take off the roster
29 Fruit drink
30 Wear away
31 Turner of Hollywood
32 Pay no attention to
33 Agree
34 Downpour
36 Ocean ice
40 Bowlike object
42 Corned-beef dish
43 Heartburn soother
44 Agra attire
45 Priest's assistant
47 Governing board member
50 Stops eating
52 Interim worker
53 Hodgepodge
54 Consumer
55 Only fair
56 Zero
57 Pants part
61 Cinder
62 Porker's pad
63 __ Aviv-Jaffa, Israel

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | O | R | M | ■ | S | O | R | E | S | ■ | B | A | B | E |
| O | P | I | E | ■ | T | R | E | V | I | ■ | U | L | A | N |
| B | U | L | L | H | E | A | D | E | D | ■ | C | O | E | D |
| S | S | E | ■ | E | E | L | S | ■ | E | S | K | E | R | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | L | A | D | E | ■ | S | L | I | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | N | A | I | L | S | ■ | E | P | I | S | O | D | E | S |
| H | A | L | O | S | ■ | B | R | A | N | ■ | O | R | C | A |
| A | M | I | N | ■ | H | A | R | T | E | ■ | T | I | L | L |
| M | E | S | H | ■ | O | R | E | S | ■ | C | H | E | A | T |
| E | S | T | E | E | M | E | D | ■ | A | L | E | R | T | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | A | G | E | D | ■ | F | R | E | D | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | S | T | R | O | S | ■ | E | L | B | A | ■ | A | R | E |
| S | L | O | T | ■ | P | I | G | E | O | N | T | O | E | D |
| T | I | N | E | ■ | U | R | G | E | R | ■ | A | N | N | E |
| A | P | E | D | ■ | N | E | S | T | S | ■ | B | E | E | N |

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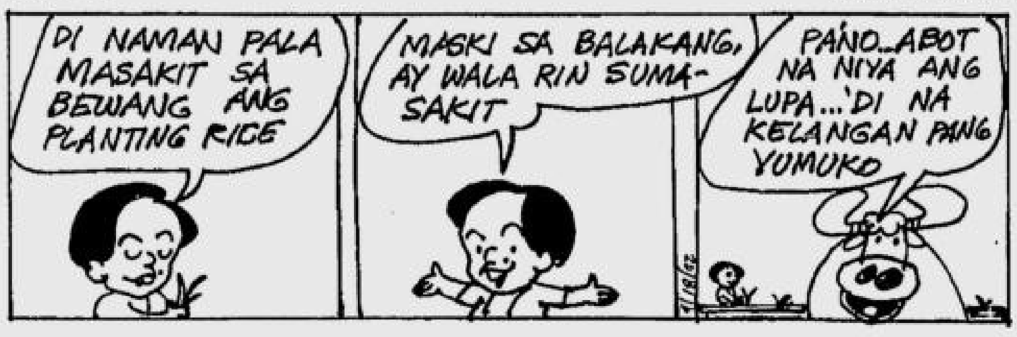
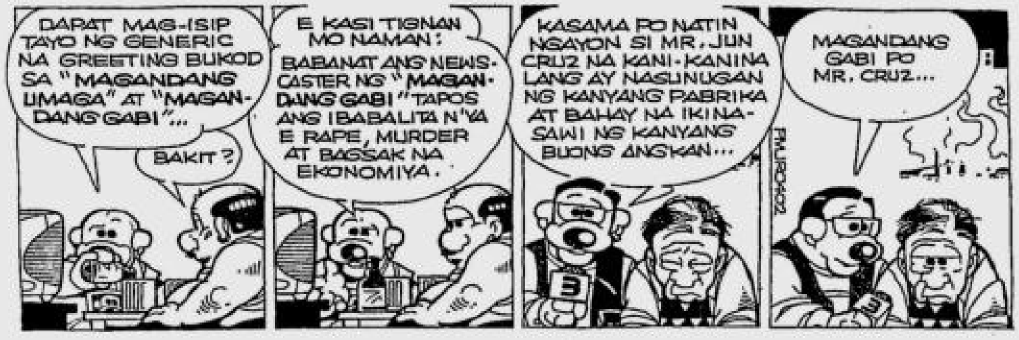
4/18/02

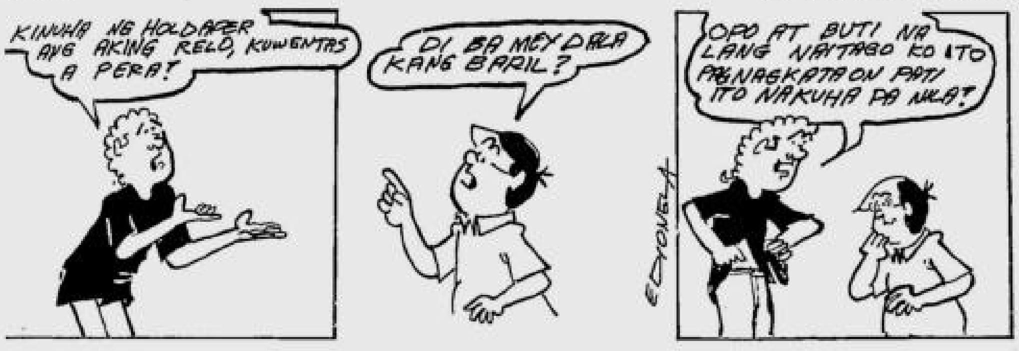
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA


DI NAMAN PALA MASAKIT SA BEWANG ANG PLANTING RICE
MASKI SA BALAKANG, AY WALA RIN SUMA-SAKIT
PAÑO...ABOT NA NIYA ANG LUPA...'DI NA KELANGAN PANG YUMUKO

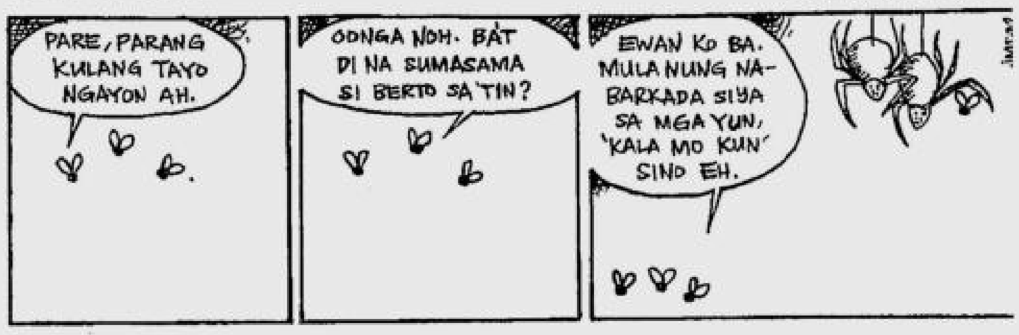
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT MAG-ISIP TAYO NG GENERIC NA GREETING BUKOD SA "MAGANDANG UMAGA" AT "MAGANDANG GABI"...
BAKIT?
E KASI TIGNAN MO NAMAN: BABANAT ANG NEWSCASTER NG "MAGANDANG GABI" TAPOS ANG IBABALITA N'YA E RAPE, MURDER AT BAGSAK NA EKONOMIYA.
KASAMA PO NATIN NGAYON SI MR. JUN CRUZ NA KANI-KANINA LANG AY NASUNUGAN NG KANYANG PABRIKA AT BAHAY NA IKINASAWI NG KANYANG BUONG ANGKAN...
MAGANDANG GABI PO MR. CRUZ...

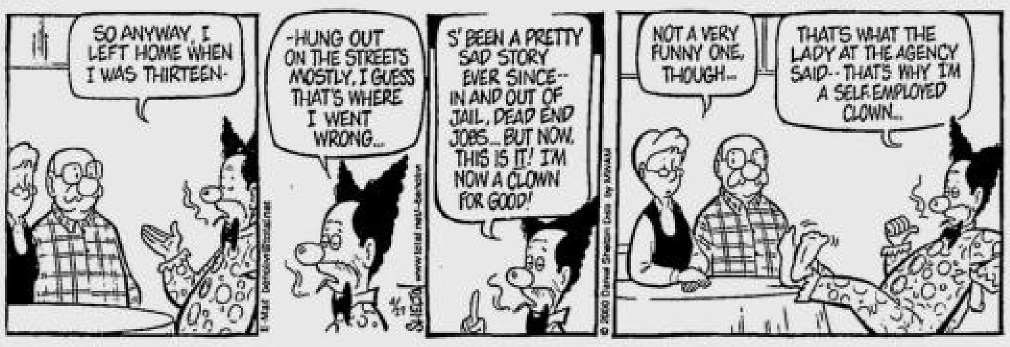
**SIMO** BY EDGAR DIONELA


KINUHA NG HOLDAPER ANG AKING RELO, KUWENTAS A PERA!
DI BA MEY DALA KANG BARIL?
OPO AT BUTI NA LANG NAITAGO KO ITO PAGNAGKATAON PATI ITO NAKUHA PA NILA!

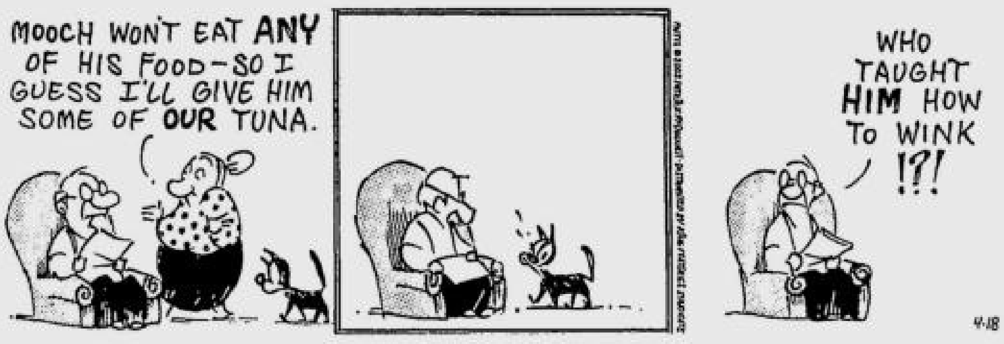
**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PARE, PARANG KULANG TAYO NGAYON AH.
OONGA NOH. BAT DI NA SUMASAMA SI BERTO SA'TIN?
EWAN KO BA. MULA NUNG NABARKADA SIYA SA MGA YUN, 'KALA MO KUN' SINO EH.

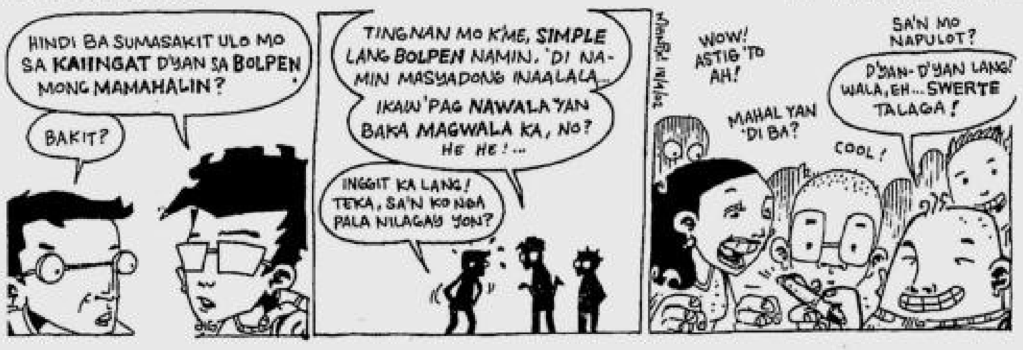
**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO ANYWAY, I LEFT HOME WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN-
-HUNG OUT ON THE STREETS MOSTLY, I GUESS THAT'S WHERE I WENT WRONG...
S' BEEN A PRETTY SAD STORY EVER SINCE-- IN AND OUT OF JAIL, DEAD END JOBS... BUT NOW, THIS IS IT! I'M NOW A CLOWN FOR GOOD!
NOT A VERY FUNNY ONE, THOUGH...
THAT'S WHAT THE LADY AT THE AGENCY SAID-- THAT'S WHY I'M A SELF-EMPLOYED CLOWN...

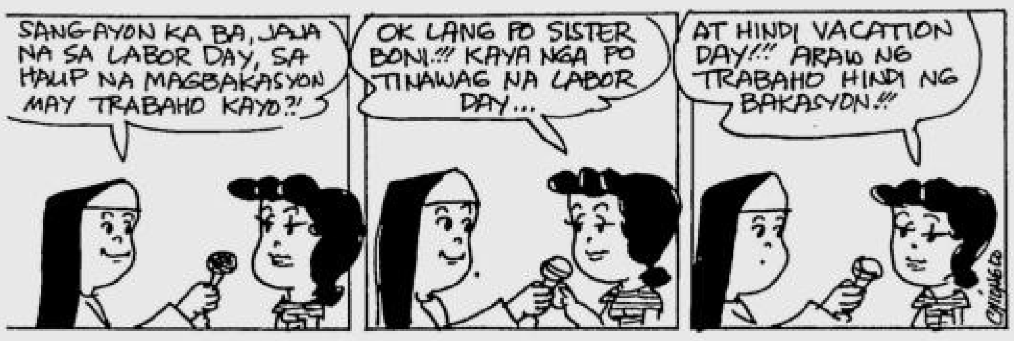
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH WON'T EAT ANY OF HIS FOOD—SO I GUESS I'LL GIVE HIM SOME OF OUR TUNA.
WHO TAUGHT HIM HOW TO WINK !?!
4-18

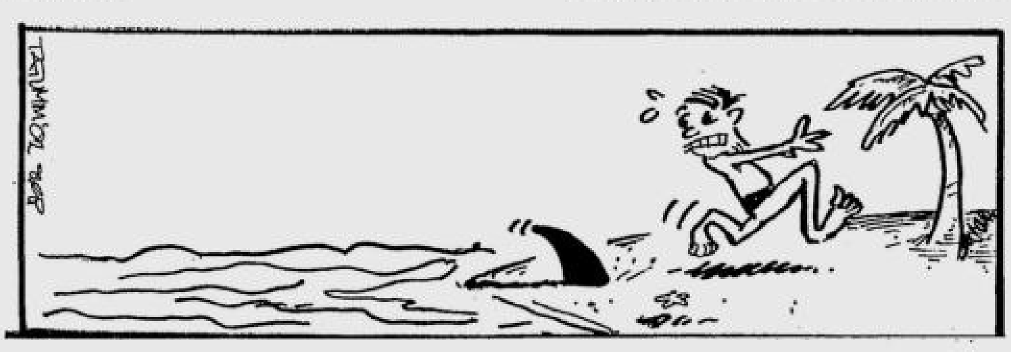
**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA


HINDI BA SUMASAKIT ULO MO SA KAIINGAT D'YAN SA BOLPEN MONG MAMAHALIN?
BAKIT?
TINGNAN MO K'ME, SIMPLE LANG BOLPEN NAMIN. 'DI NAMIN MASYADONG INAALALA.
IKAW 'PAG NAWALA 'YAN BAKA MAGWALA KA, NO? HE HE!...
INGGIT KA LANG! TEKA, SA'N KO NGA PALA NILAGAY YON?
WOW! ASTIG 'TO AH!
MAHAL YAN 'DI BA?
COOL!
SA'N MO NAPULOT?
D'YAN-D'YAN LANG! WALA, EH... SWERTE TALAGA!

**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SANG-AYON KA BA, JAJA NA SA LABOR DAY, SA HALIP NA MAGBAKASYON MAY TRABAHO KAYO?!
OK LANG PO SISTER BONI!!! KAYA NGA PO TINAWAG NA LABOR DAY...
AT HINDI VACATION DAY!!! ARAW NG TRABAHO HINDI NG BAKASYON!!!

**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOTDOG THE MOVIE |
| 2 | SHOWTIME |
| 3 | RIPPER |
| 4 | BLADE 2 |
| 5 | SNOW DOGS |
| 6 | S2PID LUV |
| 7 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 8 | TIME MACHINE |

## CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | RIPPER |
| 3 | SNOW DOGS |
| 4 | HOTDOG THE MOVIE |
| 5 | SHOWTIME |
| 6 | MIMIC 2 |
| 7 | BLADE 2 |
| 8 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 9 | DEEP END |
| 10 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

## CITY FAIRVIEW
9350740

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | E.T. |
| 2 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 3 | SHOWTIME |
| 4 | RIPPER |
| 5 | SNOW DOGS |
| 6 | S2PID LUV |
| 7 | ICE AGE |
| 8 | BLADE 2 |
| 9 | MIMIC 2 |
| 10 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 11 | TIME MACHINE |
| 12 | HOTDOG THE MOVIE |

## CITY MANILA
5239240

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SNOW DOGS |
| 2 | ICE AGE |
| 3 | DEEP END |
| 4 | MIMIC 2 |
| 5 | SHOWTIME |
| 6 | E.T. |
| 7 | HOTDOG THE MOVIE |
| 8 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 9 | S2PID LUV |
| 10 | RIPPER |
| 11 | BLADE 2 |
| 12 | MONTE CRISTO |

## MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MIMIC 2 |
| 2 | SHOWTIME |
| 3 | TIME MACHINE |
| 4 | SNOW DOGS |
| 5 | ICE AGE |
| 6 | DEEP END |
| 7 | HOTDOG THE MOVIE |
| 8 | RIPPER |
| 9 | S2PID LUV |
| 10 | BLADE 2 |
| 11 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 12 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

## CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 2 | S2PID LUV |
| 3 | DEEP END |
| 4 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 5 | RIPPER |
| 6 | SNOW DOGS |
| 7 | BLADE 2 |
| 8 | SHOWTIME |
| 9 | CLOSED |
| 10 | CLOSED |
| 11 | CLOSED |
| 12 | CLOSED |

## SOUTHMALL
8066088

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RIPPER |
| 2 | ICE AGE |
| 3 | DEEP END |
| 4 | SHOWTIME |
| 5 | HOTDOG THE MOVIE |
| 6 | MIMIC 2 |
| 7 | S2PID LUV |
| 8 | BLADE 2 |
| 9 | SNOW DOGS |
| 10 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

## CITY CEBU
2313676

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | E.T. |
| 2 | QUEEN OF THE DAMNED |
| 3 | ROYAL TENENBAUMS |
| 4 | MAJESTIC |
| 5 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 6 | WE WERE SOLDIERS |
| 7 | S2PID LUV |
| 8 | BANDITS |

## CITY ILOILO
3209422

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MAJESTIC |
| 2 | CLOSED |
| 3 | BANDITS |
| 4 | S2PID LUV |
| 5 | ROYAL TENENBAUMS |
| 6 | QUEEN OF THE DAMNED |
| 7 | CLOSED |
| 8 | ITLOG |

## CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BLADE 2 |
| 2 | HART'S WAR |
| 3 | E.T. |
| 4 | ICE AGE |
| 5 | BLOW DRY |
| 6 | S2PID LUV |

## SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RIPPER |
| 2 | E.T. |
| 3 | MIMIC 2 |
| 4 | S2PID LUV |

## CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 2 | IKA-7 GLORYA |
| 3 | S2PID LUV |

## CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SHOWTIME |
| 2 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 3 | S2PID LUV |
| 4 | SNOW DOGS |

## CITY DAVAO
2970998

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | WE WERE SOLDIERS |
| 2 | S2PID LUV |
| 3 | BANDITS |
| 4 | ITLOG |
| 5 | EVIL WOMAN |
| 6 | QUEEN OF THE DAMNED |

## BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

## CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

## THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND*

6389781-85

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---

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THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE

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| | |
|---|---|
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| 2 (SDDS) | E.T. |
| 3 (DTS) | ICE AGE |
| 4 GOLD (DTS) | SHOWTIME |
| 5 GOLD (DOLBY) | DEEP END |
| 6 GOLD (SDDS) | MONTE CRISTO |
| 7 GOLD (DOLBY) | SNOW DOGS |
| 8 | S2PID LUV |
| 9 | MIMIC 2 |
| 10 | RIPPER |

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(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HARTS WAR |
| 2 | HOT DOG |
| 3 (DTS) | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 (DTS) | |
| Golden Pearl THX | |

### Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | PAROLA |
| 3 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

### starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | HART'S WAR |
| 3 | RIPPER |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SNOW DOGS |
| 5 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

### METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HARI NG SELDA |
| 2 | ITLOG |
| 3 | S2PID LUV |
| 4 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 5 | HART'S WAR |
| 6 | DEEP END |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |

### PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SCORPION KING (APRIL 19) |

### Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | QUEEN OF THE DAMNED |
| 2 | ICE AGE |

### FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 3 | BUBOT |

### Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOT DOG THE MOVIE |
| A | SNAKE CHARMER |

### Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOT DOG THE MOVIE |
| 2 | S2PID LUV |
| 3 | ITLOG |
| 4 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

### GOTESCO CINEMA

#### Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | SNOW DOGS |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 5 | S2PID LUV |
| 6 | PAROLA |
| 7 (DTS) | SHOWTIME |
| 8 (SDDS) | DEEP END |
| 9 (DOLBY) | RIPPER |

#### Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

#### Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | PAROLA |
| 3 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 4 (SDDS) | SNOW DOGS |
| 5 | HARI NG SELDA |
| 6 (DOLBY) | BLADE 2 |
| 7 (DTS) | SHOWTIME |
| 8 | HART'S WAR |
| 9 | ITLOG |

#### Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 5 (SDDS) | BLADE 2 |
| 6 | S2PID LUV |
| 7 (DOLBY) | SNOW DOGS |
| 8 | PAROLA |

#### Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | BLADE 2 |
| 3 (DTS) | RIPPER |
| 4 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 5 (SDDS) | SNOW DOGS |

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |

### Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

| | |
|---|---|
| Dilson | PAROLA |
| Lords | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| Jennet | |

### MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | RIPPER |
| 3 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

### Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | |

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
**SUPER CINERAMA**
tel 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | PAROLA |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | S2PID LUV |
| 5 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

### New Divisoria Mall
**DIVISORIA CINEMA**
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

### FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |

### Berma
tel 879.2029

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

### CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CLOSED |
| 2 | CLOSED |

### CINEMA 2000

#### Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | BLADE 2 |
| 3 (DTS) | BANDITS |

#### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 (DTS) | BANDITS |
| 3 (DOLBY) | BLADE 2 |
| 4 | EVIL WOMAN |

#### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 (DOLBY) | EVIL WOMAN |
| 3 (DTS) | BANDITS |
| 4 | BLADE 2 |

#### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | E.T. |
| 2 | S2PID LUV |
| 3 | SOON TO OPEN |
| 4 | SOON TO OPEN |

#### Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 3 (DOLBY) | BANDITS |
| 4 (DTS) | E.T. |

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| 3 | SNAKE CHARMER |
| 4 (DTS) | HOT DOG THE MOVIE |

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | BLADE 2 |
| 2 | S2PID LUV |
| 3 (DTS) | SNAKE CHARMER |
| 4 | EVIL WOMAN |
| 5 | BLOW DRY |

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | QUEEN OF THE DAMNED |
| 3 | BLOW DRY |

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | QUEEN OF THE DAMNED |
| 2 | S2PID LUV |
| 3 | BLOW DRY |

### Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TIME MACHINE |
| 2 | E.T. |
| 3 | ITLOG |

### Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | BLADE 2 |
| 3 | |

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | S2PID LUV |
| 2 (DTS) | |

### Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |

### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ITLOG |
| 2 | S2PID LUV |
| 3 | TIME MACHINE |

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

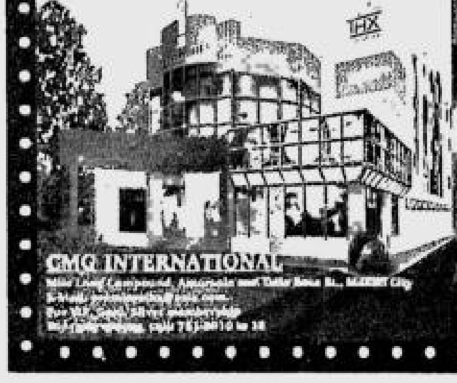
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | EVIL WOMAN |
| 2 | MAJESTIC |
| 3 | BLADE 2 |
| 4 | MIMIC 2 |

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY EX) | BLADE 2 |
| 2 | S2PID LUV |
| 3 (DTS) | HARTS WAR |
| 4 | BLOW DRY |

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

**ADVANCED SCREENING** THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA THX **OPENS TOMORROW**

THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING

---

# MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

**NOW SHOWING**

### Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 THX | BLADE 2 |
| 2 | ICE AGE |
| 3 | DEEP END |
| 4 | RIPPER |
| 5 | SNOW DOGS |
| 6 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 7 | E.T. |
| 8 | SHOW TIME |
| 9 | TIME MACHINE |
| 10 | CROSS ROADS |

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | RIPPER |
| 3 | HOT DOG MOVIE |
| 4 | DEEP END |
| 5 | BLADE 2 |
| 6 | SNOW DOGS |
| 7 | SHOWTIME |

### Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | E.T. |
| 2 | RIPPER |
| 3 | SNOW DOGS |
| 4 | ICE AGE |
| 5 | HOT DOG MOVIE |
| 6 | S2PID LUV |
| 7 | SHOWTIME |
| 8 | BLADE 2 |

### Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BLOW DRY |
| 2 | ICE AGE |
| 3 | RIPPER |
| 4 | E.T. |
| 5 | BLADE 2 |
| 6 | SHOWTIME |
| 7 | HOT DOG MOVIE |
| 8 | S2PID LUV |

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOT DOG MOVIE |
| 2 | SHOWTIME |
| 3 | S2PID LUV |
| 4 | SNOW DOGS |
| 5 | RIPPER |
| 6 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |

### Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | E.T. |
| 2 | BANDITS |
| 3 | MAJESTIC |
| 4 | ALI |
| 5 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 6 | ROYAL TENENBAUMS |

### Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | QUEEN OF THE DAMNED |
| 2 | BANDITS |
| 3 | MAJESTIC |
| 4 | MONTE CRISTO |
| 5 | ROYAL TENENBAUMS |
| 6 | E.T. |

### Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S2PID LUV |
| 2 | BLADE 2 |
| 3 | E.T. |
| 4 | HARTS WAR |
| 5 | EVIL WOMAN |
| 6 | EVIL WOMAN |

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

BRUCE WILLIS
HART'S WAR

**Late Night Screening**

on
April 12 & 13, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons
Movieworld
Galleria

**how-2-reach-us:**

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# Donita, Jericho endorse eyewear

MTV Asia veejay Donita Rose and actor Jericho Rosales have been chosen as the new celebrity endorsers of i2i (pronounced eye to eye) eyewear.

"They are popular but we chose them not because of their fame but for being role models for the young generation," says Ricco Ocampo, president of the Astoria Group of Companies, distributor or i2i eyewear.

Donita, 27, took a day's leave from her duties as MTV Asia veejay in Singapore to attend the launch and press conference early this week.

She has been with MTV for four years now and is regularly seen on the following shows—"MTV Most Wanted," "MTV Asia Hitlist," "MTV Jams," "MTV Fresh," "MTV Non-Stop Hits," "MTV Hang-Out" and "MTV Select." She also travels all over the region to interview international music, film and TV celebrities.

Donita maintains a steadily rising career in the Philippines, as well, where she is a talent of Genesis Entertainment, managed by Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano.

Donita's last movie was "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo," opposite Mark Anthony Fernandez. She will be seen next in the forthcoming Star Cinema release, "Nine Mornings."

Donita is also one of the country's most effective celebrity endorsers, a fact recognized by the Astoria Group when it tapped her to be the image model of i2i.

Jericho, 22, was last seen on the big screen in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's critically acclaimed drama, "Bagong Buwan," which earned for him best supporting actor nominations from the Metro Manila Film Festival and Film Academy of the Philippines.

His other notable projects include Laurice Guillen's "Tanging Yaman" and the youth-oriented flick, "Trip."

Jericho is a contract star of ABS-CBN Talent Center and is part of The Hunks. On TV, he is seen regularly in "Pangako sa 'Yo," "Asap" and "Munting Paraiso."

Jericho and Donita have signed a two-year contract to endorse i2i.

On May 5, the two will have a grand launch and fans day at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati. The event will be open to the public.

The Astoria Group of Companies is headed by Ricco Ocampo and Tinna Maristela Ocampo, the couple behind the success of Mix, Anonymous, Fish, Black Shop and the food outlets Kitchen and Mangan.

**CELEBRITY** endorsers and image models Donita Rose and Jericho Rosales.

# New reality-based TV show needs fresh faces

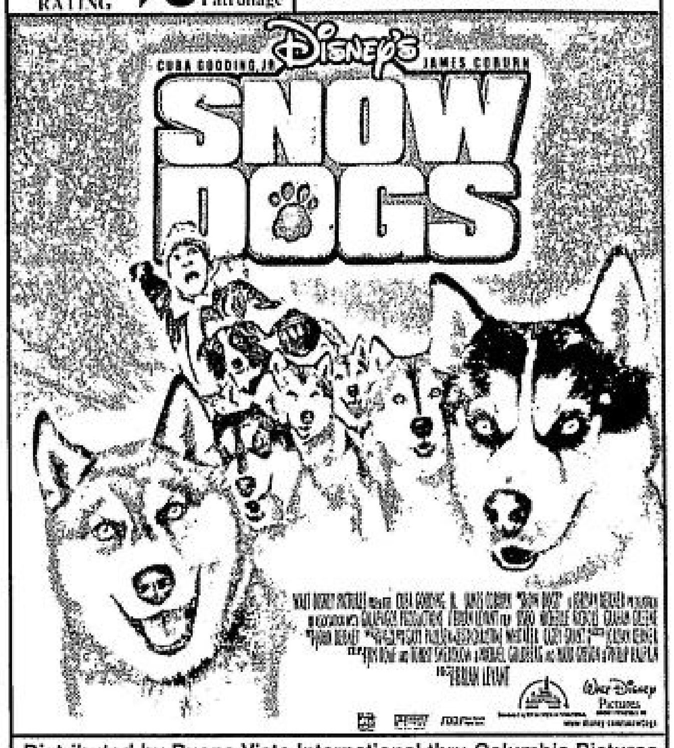
IDEAL Minds is looking for fresh faces to be part of "Single," the first-ever interactive reality-based TV show about beautiful people, the coolest hangouts, hottest gimmicks.

The show is in need of brave, gutsy, exciting and good-looking talents. If you think you can survive having a camera follow you around everyday, what are you waiting for?

Auditions will be held Saturday, April 20, 2 p.m. at Unit 1005, Pioneer-Madison suites Tower 3 Pioneer Highlands, Pioneer corner Madison sts., Mandaluyong City.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101 | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | S2PID LUV |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | BLADE 2 |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | SHOWTIME |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | HART'S WAR |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | SNOW DOGS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | DEEP END |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | RIPPER |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | S2PID LUV |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH |
| ODEON | SHOWTIME |
| ODEON-2 | RIPPER |
| ROBEN | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| TANDEM-1 | ITLOG |
| TANDEM-2 | HOT DOG |
| TIMES | HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| REMAR | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| REMAR-2 | ITLOG |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | S2PID LUV |
| B | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | HART'S WAR |
| CINEMA-2 | E.T. |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-6401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | HARI NG SELDA |
| CINEMA-2 | S2PID LUV |
| CINEMA-3 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | BLADE 2 |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | MIMIC 2 |
| CINEMA-6 | ICE AGE |
| CINEMA-7 | E.T. |
| CINEMA-8 | TIME MACHINE |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | RIPPER |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SHOW TIME |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO |
| CINEMA-12 | SNOW DOGS |
| CINEMA-14 | HOT DOG THE MOVIE |
| CINEMA-15 | S2PID LUV |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | ICE AGE |
| CINEMA-2 | SHOWTIME |
| CINEMA-3 | SNOW DOGS |
| CINEMA-4 | COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO |
| CINEMA-5 | RIPPER |
| CINEMA-6 | DEEP END |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PINAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ALIPIN NG TUKSO |
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |

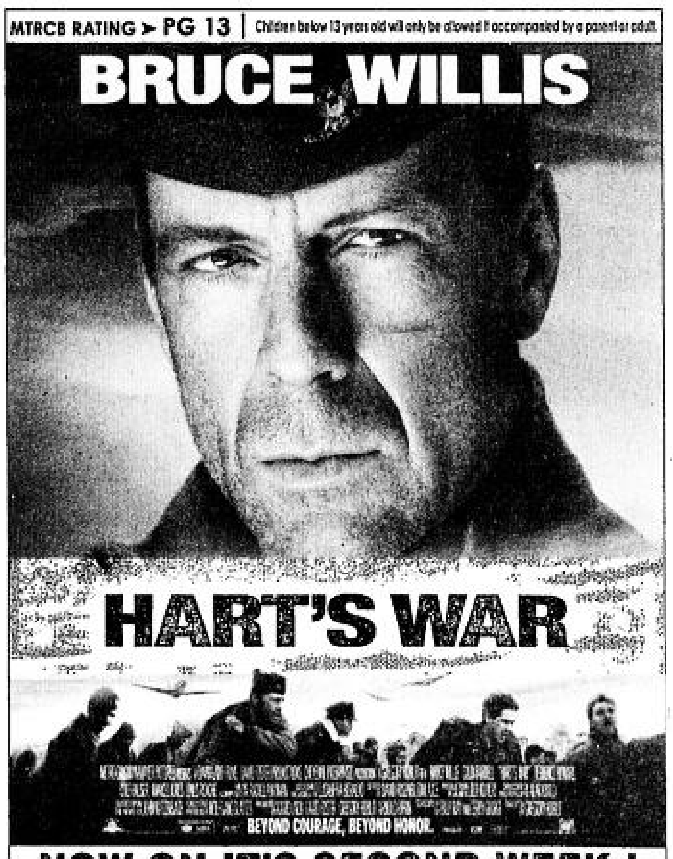


#1 COMEDY HIT IN THE U.S.!
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

Disney's SNOW DOGS
CUBA GOODING, JR. JAMES COBURN

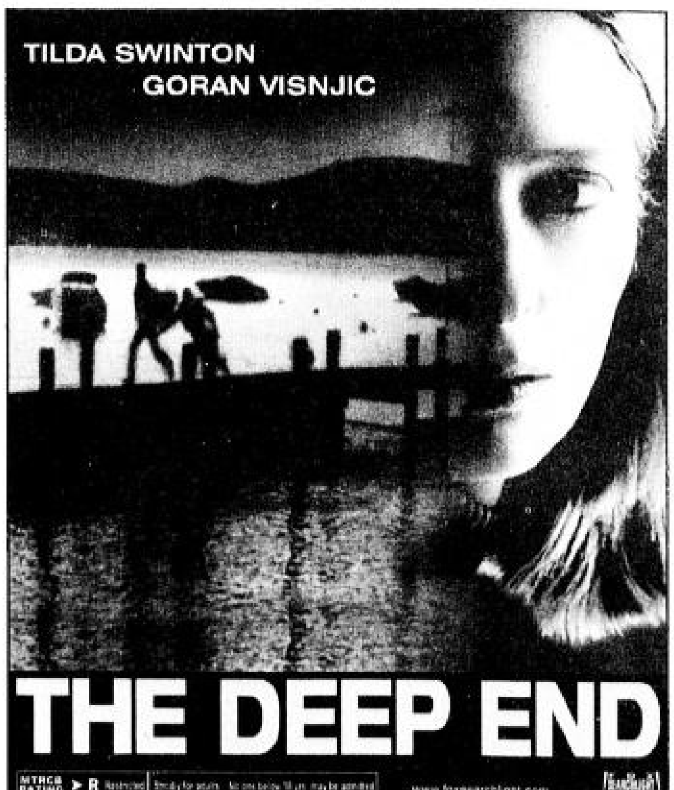
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

BRUCE WILLIS
HART'S WAR
BEYOND COURAGE, BEYOND HONOR.

NOW ON IT'S SECOND WEEK !



TILDA SWINTON
GORAN VISNJIC
THE DEEP END
MTRCB RATING ➤ R Restricted | Strictly for adults No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
www.foxsearchlight.com

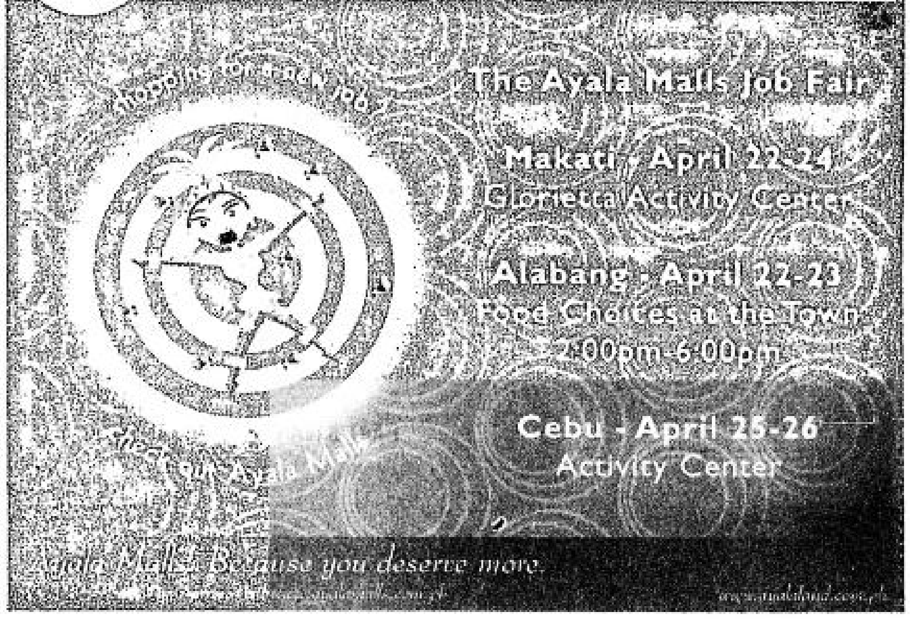
NOW SHOWING

AYALA MALLS ENTERTAINMENT

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING
YOUR 24 HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS • 729-7777
All Digital Sound

| G1 (GLORIETTA 1) | G4 (GLORIETTA 4) | | GB1 (GREENBELT 1) | ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 S2PID LUV | 1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO | 4 E.T. | 1 BEFORE NIGHT FALLS | 1 SNOW DOGS |
| 2 RIPPER: A LETTER FROM HELL | 2 DEEP END | 5 ICE AGE | 2 SNOW DOGS | 2 SHOWTIME |
| 3 BLADE 2 | 3 SNOW DOGS<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 6 SHOWTIME | 3 SHOWTIME | 3 E.T. |
| 4 SHOWTIME | | 7 BLOW DRY | 4 Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM | 4 DEEP END |
| | | | | 5 ICE AGE |

The Ayala Malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU



The Ayala Malls Job Fair
Makati - April 22-24
Glorietta Activity Center
Alabang - April 22-23
Food Choices at the Town
2:00pm-6:00pm
Cebu - April 25-26
Activity Center
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.

Hopping for a new job

FROM THE MAKERS OF THE MUMMY AND THE MUMMY RETURNS!
WARRIOR.
LEGEND.
KING.
THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING

united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
FRIDAY APRIL 19
SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE WITH THE U.S.

# Allan K spoofs today's popular TV game shows in stand-up comedy act

**SHOWS**

THE LONG-running partnership of writer-director Andrew de Real and comedian Allan K has given audiences some of the most memorable characters and comedy sketches in live entertainment.

On April 19 and 20 at the Music Museum, the two bring to the stage their latest creation, "K na K Ka Na Ba?," a spoof of the popular game shows on TV.

Starring Allan K in the familiar role of game show host, "K na K Ka Na Ba?" will even have an audience participation segment where the guests will get a chance to test their knowledge of game show trivia.

The show is written and directed by Andrew de Real, who drew inspiration from his long-held fascination for game shows.

Allan will spoof game show hosts Edu Manzano ("The Weakest Link"), Christopher de Leon ("Who Wants To Be a Millionaire"), and Kris Aquino ("Game Ka Na Ba?").

Allan will even host his own game show, "No One Can Be A Millionaire."

Showtime is 9 p.m. For ticket reservations, call The Library at 522-2484 or Music Museum at 721-0635.

ALEGRIA CONCERT. Rannie Raymundo (right) with comedienne Joy Viado (center) and musical director Angie Domingo.

### Regine in Bataan

THIS MONTH, Bataan will have yet another reason to celebrate as Regine Velasquez goes the provincial capital city of Balanga for a one-night concert on April 20 at the 6,000-seater Bataan People's Center.

Regine takes with her a repertoire of some of her most recent hits including songs from her latest platinum album, "Reigne," as well as her popular movie themes and other hits.

Joining her onstage is special guest Gabby Eigenmann. Musical director is Raul Mitra.

The Opera and some of the country's finest session artists will back-up Regine.

Regine's Bataan show is a fundraising project spearheaded by Maxi-Media International and Fr. Ernie de Leon of the San Roque Parish in Lamao, Limay, Bataan.

Tickets priced at P800, P600, P400, P300 and P150 are available at McDonald's Balanga (047) 237-7757 or VETAF's (047) 237-3588 and all Catholic parish offices of Bataan.

### Musical-comedy

PAGCOR presents the musical-comedy, "A Special for Singles and Doubles," featuring Rannie Raymundo, 2001 Voice of Asia singing champion Ladine Texas, the latest singing heartthrob Lance Raymundo and comedienne Joy Viado, with the special participation of the Blue Ground Band and Norman Peñaflorida.

Directed by Angie Magbanua with Angie Domingo as musical director, "A Special for Singles and Doubles" is slated at 9 tonight at Alegria Lounge of Holiday Inn Hotel along, United Nations Avenue, Ermita.

### Padi's Point

THE PARTYING continues this season as the Winston Concert Series features top-caliber bands at special outlets of Padi's Point in Metro Manila on Friday, April 19, starting 8 p.m.

True Faith performs at Padi's Point Las Piñas City. Expect the crowd to dance the night away with the band's repertoire that consists of popular dance hits of the past and the present.

Alternative Rock dominates Padi's Point at SM Manila when Color It Red takes over the entertainment scene.

To deliver the finest ska, reggae and jazz music at Padi's Point in Biñan, Laguna, is Brownbeat All Stars.

Much-awaited by music fans at Padi's Point in Mindanao Avenue is Barbie's Cradle.

Joining this week's edition of the Winston Concert Series at Padi's Point in Araneta Center is K24/7 with Shar.

The Dawn takes centerstage at Padi's Point Metropolis in Alabang.

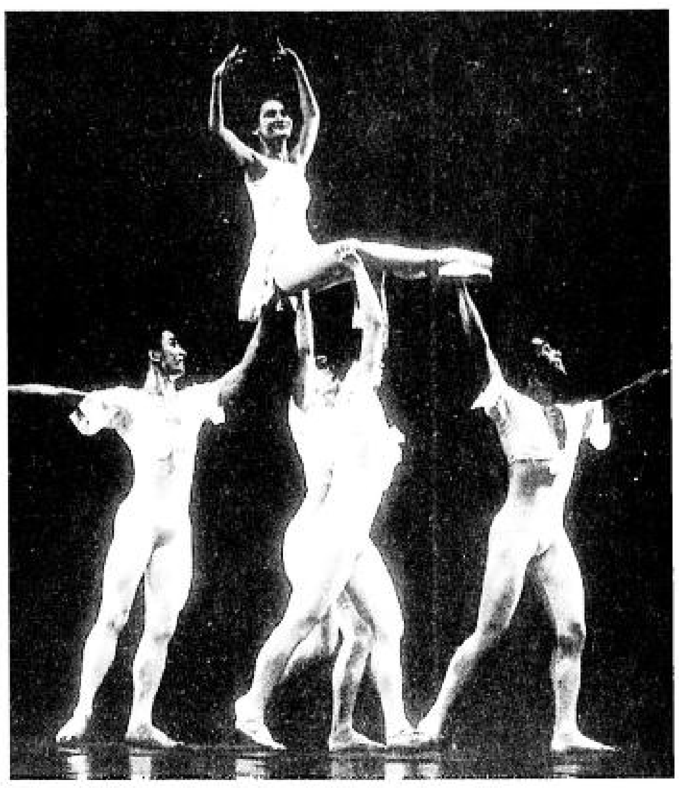
The Winston Concert Series is presented with Incus Productions.

### Stars in the mall

MAGIC 89.9 dwTM goes on a live remote broadcast from Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall for the coronation of "Little Stars 2002" on April 19.

Stars of ABS-CBN's "G-mik" Carlo Aquino and Angelika Panganiban are the featured guests.

On April 21, Jericho Rosales holds his grand fans day in the mall.


'SYMPHONY AT SAYAW'
Intramuros Evenings Performing Arts Series presents "Symphony at Sayaw," featuring Ballet Manila with Lisa Macuja-Elizalde on Friday, 6:30 p.m. at the Puerta Real Gardens. Free admission. This "Classical Symphony" suite is choreographed by Serguie Vikulov.

Beat the heat with great bargains as Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall gears up for a three-day summer sale on April 19, 20 and 21. Big discounts and prizes galore lie in store for shoppers.

Join the raffle promo by presenting a P300 single of accumulated purchase receipt from any mall tenant, food court, department store, supermarket, Home Gallery, SLE Essentials, Planet Toys and The Brick Road and get a chance to win any of the family getaway packages provided by VII Suites Hotel and Observatory Antipolo.

On April 20, check out who will bring home the next dream car during the third grand draw of the "Dream Car Extravaganza" raffle promo.

### New Wave at Arkdia

ARKDIA Entertainment Venue brings back the new wave era tonight with "e!xclusively New Wave."

Reminisce with the songs by The Cure, Fra Lippo Lippi, Bolshoi, REM and more with show bands Waterfront, Reign Dance and Rubix Cube.

VELASQUEZ

Tickets are at P250 inclusive of a free drink.

Tomorrow night, Friday, it's going to rain men with the launch of "e!male," a search for the male star of the night. The event happens every Mondays thereafter.

Arkdia Entertainment Venue features Nyoy Volante and Ronnie Cruz Acoustics with M-Series on Mondays and Fat Session on Tuesdays.

It's ladies' night on Wednesdays with Big and G-Steps.

On Thursdays, Overload and Blue Ground perform, while Reign Dance and Escape take centerstage on Fridays.

Chillwork and Toy Symphony sing on Saturdays.

Nyoy Volante and Ronnie Cruz Acoustics return on Sundays, back-to-back with Asciano.

For inquiries or reservations, call 400-9974 or visit Arkdia at 542-544 Remedios st., Malate, Manila.

## Top 10 videos of 2001

C-INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment releases the Top 10 videos of 2001:

"The Wedding Planner," starring Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConaughey; "The Cell," with Jennifer Lopez and Vince Vaughn; "The Family Man," starring Nicolas Cage and Tea Leoni; "Bring It On," with Kirsten Dunst and Eliza Dushku; "The Gift," starring Keanu Reeves and Cate Blanchett; "3000 Miles to Graceland," with Kevin Costner and Kurt Russell; "Driven," starring starring Sylvester Stallone; "Little Nicky" with Adam Sandler and Patricia Arquette; "Bless the Child," starring Kim Basinger and Cristina Ricci; and "15 Minutes," with Robert de Niro and Edward Burns.

Call C-Interactive at 245-5011 to 12.

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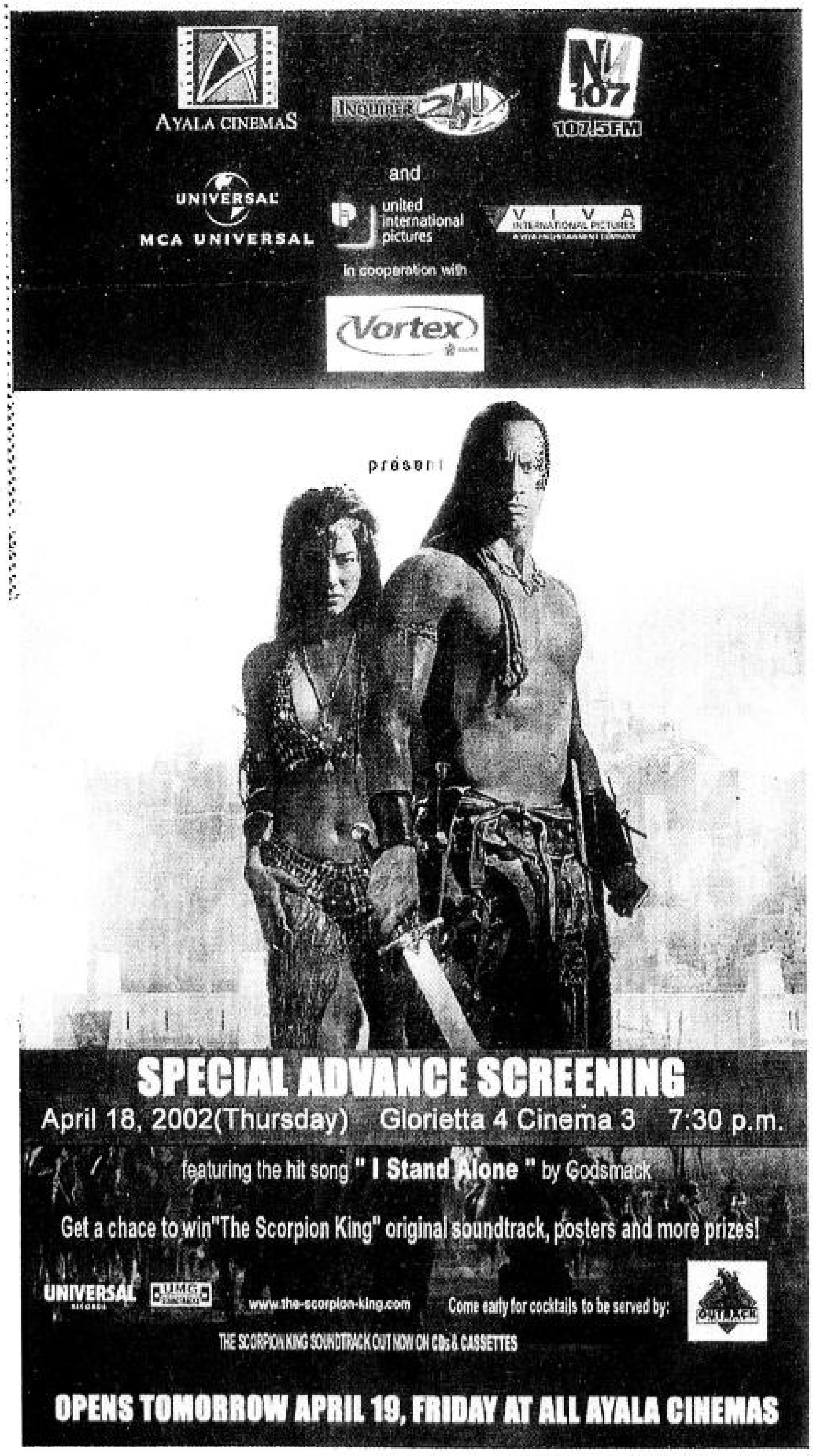
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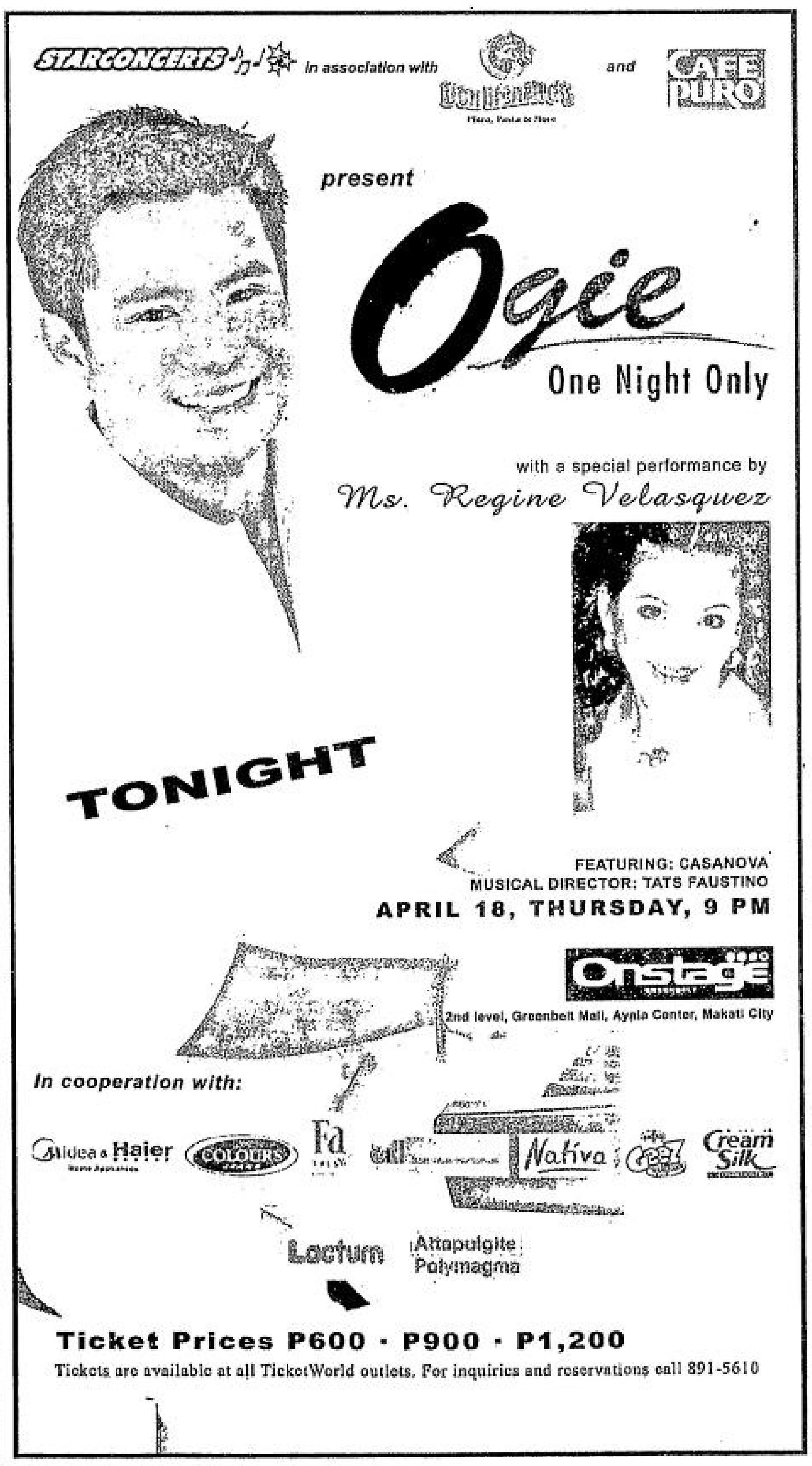
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# ENTERTAINMENT

*Editor* **Louie C. Camino**

# Thailand wants to build own Hollywood

BANGKOK — Plans to build a major film production complex are afoot in the Thai capital, which could see Bangkok emerge as Southeast Asia's Hollywood, government officials said Tuesday.

The Industrial Estate Commission (IEC) is considering a feasibility study for a proposal to build a massive "film industry zone" aimed at boosting Thai and international movie-making, deputy industry minister Pichet Sathirachaval said.

"The idea is very good because the zone will keep the film environment fresh here," Pichet said.

"It will draw more Thai and Hollywood producers, and will bring more revenues to the country," he said.

The feasibility study could be approved "within the next one or two months," he added.

Pichet said the zone being considered for the outskirts of the city would be "similar to Universal Studios" in the filmmaking center of Hollywood.

Thai entertainment giant Kantana Group would help develop the self-contained facility, which would include studios and other production facilities for costuming and editing, as well as equipment leasing, he said.

It would also incorporate a theme-park element to attract tourists, Pichet said, adding that costs of the massive project had yet to be tabled.

The government was prepared to offer tax exemptions and other benefits in its bid to support the project, he said.

Thailand made record-breaking returns from foreign film shoots here last year with 59 feature films, 192 documentaries and 184 commercial advertisements that generated revenue $28.3 million, according to the national film office.

Most big-budget films shot here are produced and edited outside the country.

IEC governor Anchalee Chavanit told the Nation newspaper Tuesday that the commission in the past had invited Universal Studios to set up a studio in Thailand but the invitation was declined.

*AFP*

**'TIGGER MOVIE' ON DISNEY CHANNEL**

**Get ready for some fun and adventure as the world's best loved tiger, Tigger from Winnie the Pooh, comes roaring to the Disney Channel via his first full-length feature, "The Tigger Movie," April 21 (Sunday), 12 noon on the "Wonderful World of Disney." The movie follows the adventures of Tigger as he decides one day that being unique can be lonely, even if he has wonderful friends and a young bouncy partner named Roo. Tigger starts thinking that there must be other creatures like him out there so he decides to journey through the Hundred Acre Woods to find the biggest and most gigantic family tree around. The movie will again be shown on April 26, 11 p.m. Disney Channel Asia is a multi-territory feed that is seen in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei.**

# Pops goes the Robin

SINGERS **Regine Velasquez** and **Jolina Magdangal** have successfully costarred in films with **Robin Padilla.** On May 1, it'll be the turn of another singer, **Pops Fernandez**, to play the leading lady on the big screen of the former Bad Boy of local movies.

In the Star Cinema production, titled "Videoke King," Robin plays a videoke enthusiast and Pops is a department store supervisor. They are brought together by music, so expect Pops and Robin's movie to be a comic-romantic-musical.

The prospect of hearing Robin sing (well) (hopefully) is one of the movie's attractions to viewers. As for Pops, moviegoers will want to see if she can keep up with Robin's cheekily irascible ways. Can she be "one of the boys?" By May 1, we'll know for sure.

### Feedback

FROM **Cris Villonco**: "Thank you very much for your notes on my performance in 'Alikabok.' I was still in New York making campus visits when it came out, but my grandmother made sure I read it—she faxed it to me six times!

**VIEWFINDE**

*Nestor U. Torre*

"I love my career, and I'll do anything to stay. I've been given great opportunities and I feel sorry that Manila is full of talented people who also work their butts off, yet go unnoticed. I'm flattered that a number of people in the industry are beginning to appreciate my work, but from experience I've learned that, even with contacts and the right connections, great projects end up being thrown out of the window, and so do talents.

"The good news is there are plans to stage 'Alikabok' again in August, and very recently I was asked to work on a movie project to start filming in January 2003—I'm sure your review contributed to that in no small way! I'm keeping my fingers crossed *na sana naman matuloy*.

"In the meantime, college decision letters were mailed out last week. I've been accepted to four, waitlisted on one, and have yet to hear from one more. It's crazy and terribly humbling, this college application process. I have until May 1 to make a decision but. I am taking your advice (to study and perform here) seriously.

"If I do study in the US, I will major in Performing Arts Education or Communications/Education. I've been accepted to the Ateneo as well, so if the steady stream of projects we're all hoping for comes my way—the States can wait!"

NUT's NOTES: Do stay. Studying abroad is fine, but with local audiences, it's out of sight, out of mind. Also, don't wait for projects to come your way. You and your mentors should initiate them.

And it's good and challenging to take a risk on performing here, even if you have other options. A good example in this regard is **Robert Seña**. Some years ago, after performing abroad for more than10 years, he asked for my advice on what next to do, and I urged him to come home and perform here.

It was a big risk for him, since his singing voice was "classical" and some people had warned him that there was a limited market for that kind of singing here. But Robert and his wife **Isay Alvarez** finally decided to take the risk—and now, Robert is performing all over the place, and is in great demand.

The risk-taking paid off for him, and it can work for you, too. But, you've got to work really hard, create your own opportunities, and trust in the good sense of the local audience (despite all of the evidence to the contrary!).

As for college studies, we have some good schools here, plus workshops outside of the academe that you can also take from time to time. But the best argument for staying here is really the fact that there's nothing better than performing for your own people, and making a difference in their lives. Like you said, the States, and everything that goes with it, can wait!

# German film week

THE THIRD German film week opens at the Cinema 2 of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City with a by-invitation screening of the award-winning and critically acclaimed "Secret Society," at 7 tonight.

The opening will be graced by Imogen Kimmel, director of said film, and Christa Maerker, noted German film critic and director. The film festival will be open to the viewing public starting April 19.

Theme of this year's festival is "Is the Weakness of Men the Strength of Women?"

Seven critically acclaimed films from Germany will be shown (with English sub-titles) in three screenings daily at 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. until April 23.

The film selection was made by Christa Maerker who has been working with the Berlin Film Festival since 1979, and who was also responsible for choosing the films for the German film week in Manila 2000 and 2001.

To be featured are Kimmel's "Secret Society" (April 19 at 8 p.m. and April 21 at 5:30 p.m.), Academy Award-winning director Xavier Koller's "Gripsholm" (April 20, 3 p.m. and April 21, 8 p.m.), Eoin Moore's "Conamara" (April 22, 8 p.m. and April 23, 5:30 p.m.), Hans-Christian Schmid's "Crazy" (April 20, 5:30 p.m. and April 22, 3 p.m.), Achim van Borries' "England!" (April 19, 5:30 p.m. and April 23, 3 p.m.), Fatih Akin's "In July" (April 20, 8 p.m. and April 21, 3 p.m.) and Christian Petzold's "The State I Am In" (April 19, 3 p.m. and April 22, 5:30 p.m.).

Admission to the film festival is P20. For inquiries, call 633-7851.

# Newcomers should learn from Lorna T

**LORNA Tolentino** is on a winning streak.

After being named Best Actress in last month's Film Academy Awards, she also bagged the Best Actress trophy in last week's Famas rites. I told her: "If you were nominated in the coming Urian Awards, it could be a grand slam for you."

In all humility, LT said, "That would be too much already. I'm so grateful for all the blessings He has given me, especially my two awards. I can't ask for anything more."

She's truly one of the few actresses who don't gloat over their success or are lulled into a false sense of complacency. LT keeps striving to outdo herself.

That's why she's so fired up over her new soap opera on ABS-CBN. "I'm lucky to be chosen to play the lead. Feeling ko tuloy para akong si Juday, Claudine and **Kristine** (**Hermosa**)."

The daily telenovela is set to premier mid-May.

Lorna's resurgence on the small screen could not have come at a better time.

Soap princess **Claudine Barretto**'s career may be adversely affected by the aftermath of **Rico Yan**'s death and all the controversies hounding her. Her drumbeaters must devise a damage control scheme soon. There's even drivel that Claudine might take a long vacation abroad to get away from it all.

**DOLLY WOOD**

*Dolly Anne Carvajal*

Another drama princess, **Judy Ann Santos**, is rumored to be moving to GMA 7. If so, that would entail some adjustments.

Of course, Lorna T is Lorna T. She's way above Claudine and Juday but she just does not make a big deal about it. Newcomers who are nothing more than tabloid attractions can learn a thing or two from Lorna on how to handle fame.

Aside from her soon-to-be launched soap, LT is all agog about her bakery business. "I'll be opening Gal's Bakery branch in Sta. Lucia (Buenavige Bldg) on April 20, Saturday. Come taste how yummy our bread is!"

Congrats for never turning stale off and on screen! Your kindness acting prowess have no expiration date.

### All mixed up

ONCE and for all, allow me to clarify the item I wrote about Parañaque Mayor **Joey Marquez**'s alleged house in Ayala Alabang where his estranged wife **Alma Moreno** now stays.

The house is allegedly a "gift" to him from a Chinese businesswoman in exchange for special favors he granted her business in Parañaque. Based on records presented to me by Mayor Joey himself, I can now safely say that my source got the facts mixed up.

But the insider insists: "He can always use a dummy to escape bribery charges."

Be that as it may, I could sense Joey's sincerity. So Mayor, may I rest my case?

### Just asking

IF and when the Rico-Claudine brouhaha subsides, will show biz insiders refocus their attention on the still unsolved **Nida Blanca** murder case? When oh when will the NBI finally nail the culprit? That's one crazy thing about the biz. When tragedy strikes, or when there's any major controversy for that matter, everyone milks the issue for all it's worth. But as soon as new earth-shaking info leaks out, it eclipses the previous hot issue which remains forever hanging. Hopefully, the issue about Nida Blanca's murder won't die a natural death.

How will **Richard Gomez** fare as a TV talk show host now that he has joined "S-Files?" He may have the looks, the charisma and a captive audience, but being witty or spontaneous has never been his strongest point. Too bad being genetically blessed does not always include the gift of gab.

### Friends Cup

JOIN my wacky "Friends at the Square" family and me for the 1st Friends Invitational Golf Tournament on Friday, April 26, 9 a.m., at Villamor Golf Club. Tickets are at P1,500 only, inclusive of green fee, caddies, dinner and a chance to win in the raffle. Type of play—System 36.

For inquiries, call Rey at 0917-811-5218, or Nestor at 0917-896-6376.

*For feedback, e-mail luvludg@hotmail.com, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com, wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

# Backroom artists breeze through summer

SUMMER is hot for Backroom artists.

The CompanY, composed of Moy Ortiz, Annie Quintos, Andrei Castillo, Sweet Plantado, Reuben Laurente and Cecil Bautista, will perform at Hard Rock Café tonight. The group recently released an album, "Storybook," under the Pop Art label of Viva Records.

Ai-Ai de las Alas and Dessa left the country for a concert in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

When Dessa returns, she will guest in the forthcoming concert of Dale Adriatico at the Alegria Lounge of Holiday Inn.

Gladys and the Boxers with K, Aliw awardee for best performance in bars and lounges, lives up to their title as they perform at Ratsky's Malate on all Thursdays of the month.

The group has also been busy doing out of town shows and performing in shopping malls.

Gladys Guevarra, the frontliner of the group, is one of the hosts of the daily noontime show, "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

MILLADO

ARA MINA

OCHOA

Kakai Brosas, meanwhile, appears in the GMA 7 soap series, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin." Other members are Daniel Lardizabal and Cris Samonte.

Rufa Mae Quinto started filming another comedy flick, "Super B, under Viva Films, with Joyce Bernal at the helm. Marvin Agustin costars. It is one of the entries in the forthcoming Manila Film Festival in June.

On TV, Rufa Mae is a mainstay of the GMA 7 shows "Idol Ko si Kap" and "Bubble Gang."

Calvin Millado busies himself with corporate shows. He is now in the thick of preparations for his forthcoming play under theater director Bobby Garcia, who handled him in "Rent."

"Asap" host Ariel Rivera performs with singer Malu Barry on April 20 in Bulacan.

Ara Mina is back to drama in the new soap series, "Kung Mawawala Ka," and is also a mainstay of the gag show, "Bubble Gang." She is now shooting a movie with Rudy Fernandez, "Diskarte," which is another entry in the Manila Film Festival.

Ima Castro rides high with her performance as Kim in the English production of "Miss Saigon." She has been playing the role of Kim for two years now, starting from the Philippine production at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, then in Hong Kong and Singapore.

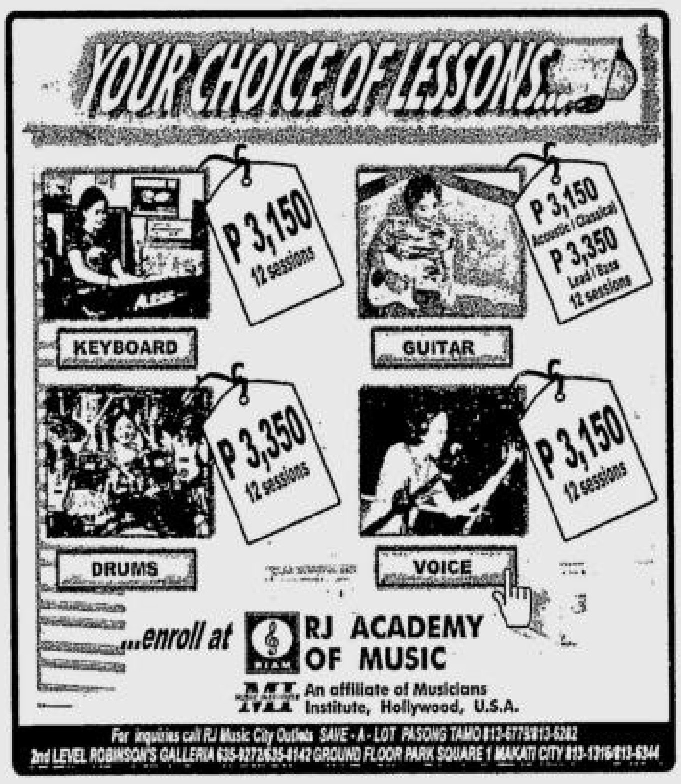
Janna Victoria is now working on the materials for a solo album. She wants to include OPM tunes and original compositions.

Vernie Varga and Plinky Recto are busy with corporate shows.

Dominic Ochoa hosts the ABS-CBN noontime show "MTB" and is a mainstay in "Whattamen."

Belinda Panelo displays her acting flair in "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka" on ABS-CBN.

Shannen Torres is in-demand in corporate shows, while Nanette Medved hosts "Cinema Talk" on the ANC Channel.



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# Gov't to broaden mart for IT graduates

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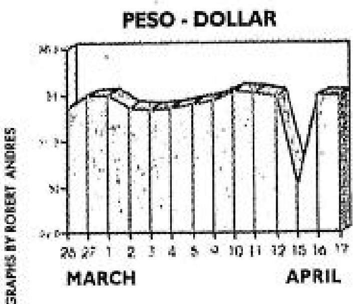

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As of 5 p.m., April 17, 2002

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### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks end up

STOCKS reversed three consecutive days of losses to climb nearly one percent yesterday, driven by increased foreign buying in anticipation of some positive first quarter earnings numbers, traders said.

A sharp rise in the Dow Jones index on Tuesday and some continued portfolio adjustment to reflect expected changes in Morgan Stanley'S Capital Indices (MSCI) next month also lifted the market.

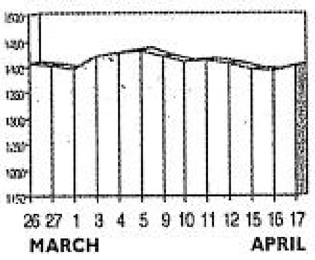
The main index closed up 11.14 points, or 0.8 percent, at 1,404.41, off a high 1,410.09

Turnover was sharply improved, rising to P782.38 million from P475.37 million.

"Some foreign investors are starting to look at this market again, they are

STOCKS/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



*(See stock market report on Page B4)*

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

**THE INFORMATION Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) is urging the country's fresh IT graduates to look into job opportunities from the surge in call center projects in the country.**

Systems Technology Institute chair and ITECC human resources development head Augusto Lagman estimated that at least 15,000 jobs were available this year for call center operations.

But Lagman said there were at least 70,000 fresh IT graduates this year and this excluded those that remained jobless in the previous two batches. "It's the economy. We can't do anything if there are no companies hiring right now."

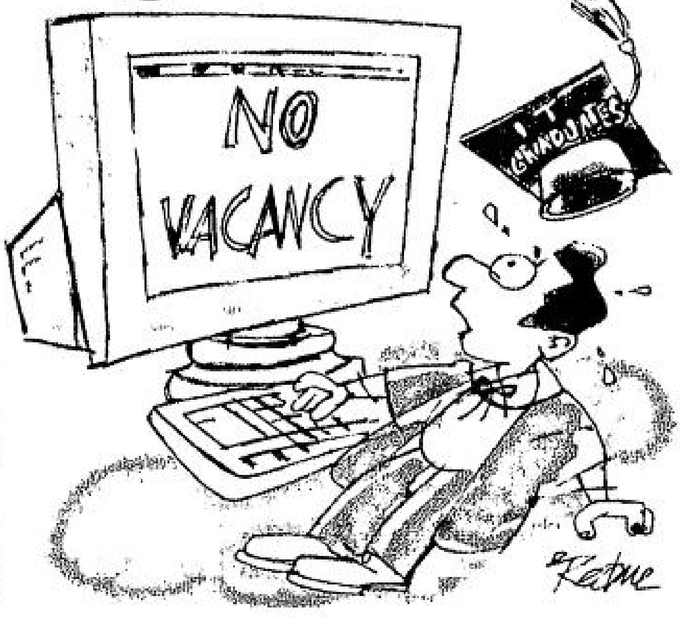
Lagman said that new IT job hiring has been declining since 2000 when the crisis started to bite into company earnings.

He said the new IT graduates have an edge over other applicants for call center positions most of which would require some IT background aside from proficiency in English.

The lack of IT job opportunities here has prompted ITECC to help broaden the access of Filipino IT professionals overseas.

Trade and Industry Secretary and ITECC vice chair Manuel A. Roxas II yesterday endorsed the

GOV'T/ B2


NO VACANCY
I.T. GRADUATES
Ketme

# Espiritu group seeks to regain bank stake

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SON and the business associates of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu together with Jollibee Foods Corp. president Antonio Tan Caktiong are seeking the help of the courts to regain control and management of United Overseas Bank Philippines, a small commercial bank.

In a petition filed with the Manila regional trial court late last month, the Espiritu and Tan Caktiong groups accused United Overseas Bank Ltd. of Singapore of failing to pay them P1.4 billion in bank receivables in exchange for a controlling interest in UOBP, formerly known as Westmont Bank.

In an interview yesterday, Francis Lim, lawyer for the group of former Westmont Bank president John Espiritu and of Tan Caktiong, said: "The Singaporeans are acting unreasonably and irrationally that's why we had to file this case."

"If you buy something you have to pay for it, that's very basic. Problem is they (Singaporeans) don't even want to pay for it," Lim noted.

Under an overall scheme approved in principle by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in September 1999 and later in various signed agreements, the former shareholders of UOBP, then called Westmont Bank, were to sell to the Singapore-based bank a controlling interest in the local bank for the total consideration of P1.4 billion.

Payment would be done through a "leveraged buyout," specifically through an assignment to the Espiritu/Tan groups of P1.4 billion in certain receivables in the bank's loan portfolio which UOBL considered as "political loans."

Thereafter, through a quasi-re-

ESPIRITU/ B3

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No1266, Series of 2002

# ALI raises ₱7B in new loans, nets ₱500M in 1st quarter

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

BROTHERS Fernando and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala are all ears to queries from stockholders of Ayala Land Inc. during the company's annual shareholders' meeting yesterday at the Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati City.

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. has raised close to P7 billion in fresh funds from various debt instruments since the start of the year, thus fully covering its financing requirements for maturing debts and capital expenditures for the rest of 2002.

In a briefing after the company's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday, ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ysmael also announced that ALI had generated about P500 million in net profit for the first quarter of the year, or slightly down from P521 million posted during the same period in 2001.

He explained that the first quarter was usually a weak period for the business as consumers would usually cut back from the seasonally aggressive spending during the Christmas holidays.

For the whole year, Ysmael said ALI expected to at least match if not exceed its strong performance last year. One of the few remaining liquid property companies in the country, ALI posted a 24-percent increase in net income to P2.29 billion in 2001 from a year ago.

During the stockholders' meeting yesterday, ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala said the successful global bond offering of the Philippine government and private corporations like its affiliate Globe Telecoms indicated better times ahead.

"All these indicators give us a positive feeling about overall economic prospects this year. The end of the recession in the United States—unless derailed by the Middle East crisis and the spike in oil prices—will be a boost to national exports and employment. Continued improvement in political and corporate governance will enable us to take advantage of opportunities," Zobel de Ayala said.

"But even if these expectations do not materialize because of a serious deterioration in the international situation, we would like to assure you that your company is ready for both adversity and opportunity," he said.

Zobel de Ayala noted that on the local front, ALI was able to raise P1.06 billion from fixed-rate corporate notes, "at a time when interest rates are close to historical lows and with significant price tightening across most tenors."

The ALI chief also noted that oversubscription to the ongoing P3-billion local bond issued by ALI indicated investor confidence in the company.

Aside from these instruments, Ysmael said ALI had likewise availed itself of about P3 billion in fresh bank loans since the start of the year, bringing total funds raised by the company close to P7 billion.

"We're done with our borrowings for the year," he said, noting that all requirements would have been fulfilled by the new borrowings secured by ALI since the start of the year. He said there was no need to incur further debts unless there were new opportunities that would need funding.

Ysmael also said ALI had no plans to tap the international bond market at the moment because the company would like to avoid unnecessary foreign exchange risks.

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| 8:30 - 9:15 | ncr. |
| 9:15 - 9:45 | imation |
| 9:45 - 10:30 | rational |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | macromedia |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | watchguard |
| 11:30 - 1:00 | lunch break |
| 1:00 - 1:45 | hp printing solutions |
| 1:45 - 2:30 | hp storage / pc's & servers |
| 2:30 - 3:30 | nai - magic / sniffer |
| 3:30 - 4:30 | microsoft XP |
| 4:30 - 5:30 | lucent / avaya / ibm / veritas |
| 5:30 - 6:00 | crystal |

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# Full trash and confidence

## BREAKTIME

*Conrado R. Banal III*

THERE'S war in Bethlehem. It causes tension in the Middle East, which produces a lot of oil. The whole world is on the edge. I'm sure we are all dying to hear about "garbage."

Thus everybody is excited over the latest from the Supreme Court. It just made a final ruling on—what else—"garbage." Well, at least it ruled on the legality of it.

In legal parlance, a "final" ruling by the Supreme Court simply means that, if you still want to contest it, you have to appeal all the way up to God.

Jumping on the chance to please 80 million of us, the Supreme Court ruled—with finality—it cannot even tell if its final ruling on "garbage" is good or bad for us.

That is now up to Gloriaetta. Being the President of the Republic, she has the last word on "garbage." All the Supreme Court said was, well, "garbage" is legal.

The question is, if Gloriaetta decides against "garbage," which the Supreme Court already ruled as legal, will it make her decision illegal and, thus, make her a criminal.

* * *

THAT'S why this particular "garbage" agitates us. I wonder why. Maybe it's because we still end up paying for such a final ruling—good or bad for us. I just love final rulings.

By "garbage," anyway, I refer to an alleged contract between our beloved government and a certain Australian company called Jancom.

Not too long ago, during the time of Kuya Eddie, Jancom apparently got what it called a contract from somebody in the government for a garbage incineration project.

That somebody was none other than Dionisio dela Serna who, being in charge of garbage, became famous for going around the world, studying all about garbage.

Anyway, Jancom got the alleged contract to take care of garbage, in return for a cheap fee of only P443 billion. Do you think that's already overpricing?

Jancom claims it's not overpricing, because the government does not spend a centavo on the project. That P443 billion will come from us, the public!

* * *

ACCORDING to that final ruling of the Supreme Court, no matter the alleged contract's burden to the public, whether light or heavy, ah, *basta*, it is legal and thus binding.

Such is the justice system and the law. They are so complicated, none of us stupid guys down here can ever hope to understand them. We just pay for their consequence.

Can't you see? That garbage of a contract is all legal, for the simple reason that no President of the Republic ever approved it, much less signed it.

Not Kuya Eddie, not the man named Band . . . Wrist Band . . . and not Gloriaetta signed it. That's why the final ruling said the final word still rests on Gloriaetta.

But even without the approval of the President, according to the final ruling, the alleged contract is legal. Does that make all those three Presidents ignorant of the law?

Look, if it's legal and all, why would the President not approve it? It is legal! So what can further stop that perfected contract? Only the Second Coming can!

* * *

FOR that's the beauty of the final ruling. It merely says the alleged contract is legal and binding. It shies away from saying whether or not it is a fair and just contract.

The question is, if the Supreme Court does not even know whether or not that "garbage" is disadvantageous to the government, how did it know it is legal?

I grew up believing that, if a contract is disadvantageous to the government, something must be wrong with it, and I'll say you're a mental case if you say it's legal.

But this is the Supreme Court. It does not know if the perfected, binding contract is good or bad for us. This doesn't matter when the Supreme Court talks of legality.

I give up. For the life of me, I cannot even begin to hope to start understanding a little bit of the basic principle of our brand of justice and the law. I'm just a taxpayer.

Things like those, we just have to leave up to the likes of Supreme Court Justice Antonio "Tony" Carpio, who inhibited himself on that "garbage," unfortunately.

* * *

CARPIO admits he is a former counsel to the Australians in Jancom. That was probably the time he was a senior partner at the Carpio Villaraza Cruz law firm.

If the names ring a bell, it's because "Cruz" stands for Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino "Nonong" Cruz. He enjoys the full trust and confidence of Gloriaetta.

The "Villaraza" stands for Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza. He is left with the law firm alone, defending it from talk that it is involved in the Jancom deal, precisely because of Carpio.

Well, Carpio was also once connected with the Palace, as presidential legal adviser to Kuya Eddie. He could do things then which the law firm did not know about.

Today, as everybody knows, the law firm still does not bother with that "garbage." Pancho himself denies time and again the law firm is involved.

Without the Pancho connection, which is said to be, er, "strong" with the Palace, will that "garbage" still get the final affirmative word of Gloriaetta? Let's see.

# Smart, Lopez firm ink deal on vehicle-tracking system

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THE MORE than seven million subscribers of cellular giant Smart Communications Inc. may soon avail themselves of services that could help track their vehicles and even prevent these from being stolen.

Smart signed a service provider agreement Wednesday with Lopez-owned location-based services provider FindMe LBS, which would enable Smart subscribers to find their vehicles almost anywhere in the country via text messaging.

FindMe LBS chief operations officer Ruel Kapunan explained in an interview that a vehicle could be tracked as long as Smart's signal reached the area where the vehicle was located.

He said this would mean being able to track vehicles even in far-flung parts of the country as Smart's network was very reliable and that its global system for mobile communications (GSM) coverage was the widest in the country.

"These factors were the main consideration behind FindMe's decision to partner with Smart since (vehicle-tracking information) TrackMe subscribers funnel out into the remotest areas of the country and Smart has the necessary coverage to service these areas," he added.

A series of alerts, or text messages, would be sent to a subscriber using the TrackMe service, in real time and on demand.

If a vehicle were to be stolen, the TrackMe Rover unit installed in the vehicle would alert its owner. The owner, in turn, could send a text message to the unit to stop the car's engine from running and prevent the car thief from getting away with the car.

The service also includes a "panic button" which a vehicle owner could press to send a pre-formatted text message to somebody if ever the vehicle breaks down.

With the agreement in place, FindMe LBS expects to sell about 3,000 TrackMe Rover units this year. This number is seen to double by next year.

Kapunan said FindMe LBS would soon be talking to car manufacturers and property developers for possible tie-ups.

"We'll talk to car manufacturers to have the system built into the vehicles. We'll also talk to developers to have this wired into a house or an establishment," he said.

The Lopez-owned firm was also preparing to offer this vehicle tracking service overseas.

"We'll be leveraging on the capability that the Philippines has developed. There is a great opportunity for this product to go overseas," e-Lopez Group of Companies chief executive J. Xavier Gonzales said in a separate interview.

He added that the company had already received some "strong inquiries" from countries even outside the Asia-Pacific region.

# Gov't to broaden . . .

From page B1

Japanese IT Standard Examination of the Philippines (Jitse-Phil) which could open the doors to Filipino IT professionals in Japan.

"Through projects like this, we hope to sustain our ranking in IT skills, maintain the stream of IT graduates deployed abroad, and improve the Filipino IT professional's position in the value chain," Roxas said.

The Jitse-Phil will hold annual examinations for IT students and professionals and determine their capability and availability to prospective Japanese employers.

In the pilot test of the Jitse-Phil last year, only 44 out of 726 examinees passed for a 6.1 percent passing rate, as against the 17.5 percent passing rate for the Japanese version of the test.

# Stocks end up

From page B1

positioning in certain blue chips on anticipation of some favorable first quarter earnings," KGI Securities vice president for sales, Henry Ong, said.

United Coconut Planters Bank Trust fund manager Vanessa Lim noted that many of the key gainers were beneficiaries of anticipated changes to the Morgan Stanley Capital Indices (MSCI).

"I think they (market players) are anticipating the finalization of the restructuring of the indices by the end of May," she said.

Traders said the changes have already been leaked to the market.

Many fund managers use the MSCI indices as a guideline to determine the holdings of their own portfolios. *Reuters*

# Roxas unfazed by US lobby to amend retail trade law

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ROXAS

TWO YEARS after breaking up the Filipino's 48-year monopoly of domestic retail trade, American retailers are still not lining up to set up shop here.

The Retail Trade Liberalization Law might have allowed foreign investors to own up to 100 percent of a retail venture here but American retailers, like Wal-Mart, find the mandatory local sourcing requirement and reciprocity clause unpalatable.

But Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, who has been holding on-and-off talks with Wal-Mart for the past two years, is unfazed by the American lobbying for changes in the Retail Trade Law. "We should let the law take its course. Other investors like Watson's don't seem to have a problem with it," Roxas said.

Watson's, the personal store chain of Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka Shing, has tied up with Filipino retail tycoon Henry Sy to establish a retail chain in the country. Other foreign retailers that have been allowed by the Department of Trade and Industry to operate in the country are PriceSmart (S&R Price Club), McDonald's Corp., and Orkam Holdings (Makro).

In its latest National Trade Estimated Report on Foreign Trade Barriers, the US Trade Representative cited the stringent conditions that burden incoming foreign retailers which not only dampen investor interest in the country but also make the Philippines liable for violating its commitment to the World Trade Organization.

The USTR noted that the Retail Trade Law required foreign retailers for the first 10 years of operation to buy between 10 percent (for retailers of luxury goods) and 30 percent (for retailers with at least $2.5-million capital) of their inventory from local producers. This clause was meant to prod foreign retailers to buy more Philippine-made goods. The USTR likewise criticized the high capital requirements and mandatory divestment requirement imposed on foreign retailers.

The USTR also cited the reciprocity requirement in the Retail Trade Law which require foreign investors to submit a certification by the proper official of the home state that reciprocal rights are granted to Philippine enterprises, including the participation allowed.

The USTR noted that the Philippine obligations under the WTO General Agreement on Trade and Services bar the country from adopting a reciprocity provision. The USTR has long criticized the Philippines for its trade related investment measures (Trims) particularly in the automotive industry where foreign assemblers are required to buy from domestic parts makers and earn a minimum amount of foreign exchange. The Philippines has agreed to discontinue its automotive Trims by next year.

# Espiritu group . . .

From page B1

organization, the former Westmont Bank shareholders' shares would be diluted to enable UOBL to acquire the controlling interest in Westmont Bank through a subscription of shares.

It was further agreed that the bank's trust department would act as collection arm for the P1.4 billion in loans, and proceeds of the collections would be "reinvested" in the bank through subscription to common shares of the bank.

Thus, the eventual scenario after the implementation of the overall scheme was supposed to result in a 67-percent stake going to UOBL and Tan's groups owning 33 percent, of which 28 percent was in trust for the Espiritu group.

In October 1999, UOBL began the implementation of the overall scheme by subscribing to 60 percent of the voting capital of Westmont. The Singapore bank subsequently acquired an additional 7-percent stake and then changed the name of Westmont Bank to United Overseas Bank Philippines.

However, In February 2000, the BSP board directed UOBP to reinstate the P1.4 billion in receivables in the books of the bank.

With the directive of the BSP, UOBL refused to pay the consideration due the former Westmont Bank shareholders under the overall scheme.

UOBL's counsel argued that the overall scheme was void on account of the BSP's order but the Espiritu group countered that the BSP's directive merely affected the mode of payment and that the P1.4-billion obligation still stood even if it might not be in the form of bank receivables.

The Singaporeans have since then reinstated the P1.4 billion in the books of the bank while the Espiritu and Tan groups have cited breach of contract for rescinding the agreements.

"Considering that the write-off and assignment of the P1.4 billion in receivables constituted the consideration for the dilution of the former controlling Westmont Bank shareholders/Espiritu group's shareholdings in the bank, their reinstatement in the books of the bank reverses the transactions of the parties and, for all intents and purposes, restored the equity of the former Westmont Bank shareholders/Espiritu group . . . To deny the Espiritu group its right to the issuance of its proportion of said shares, equivalent to 11,663,000 shares . . . would amount to unjust enrichment," the Espiritu and Tan groups said in their petition.

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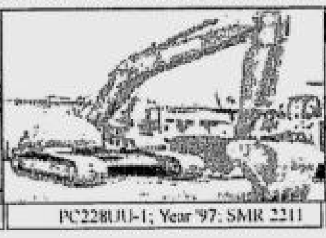

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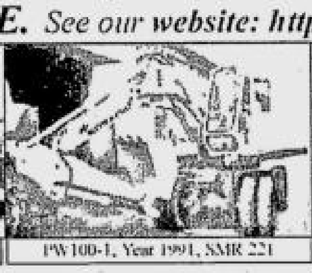

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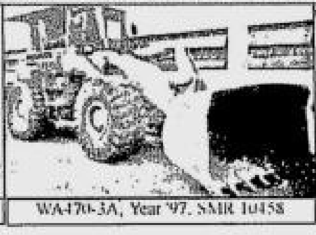

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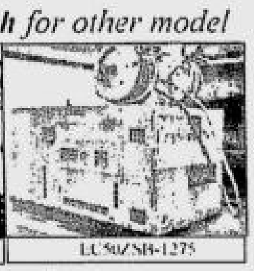

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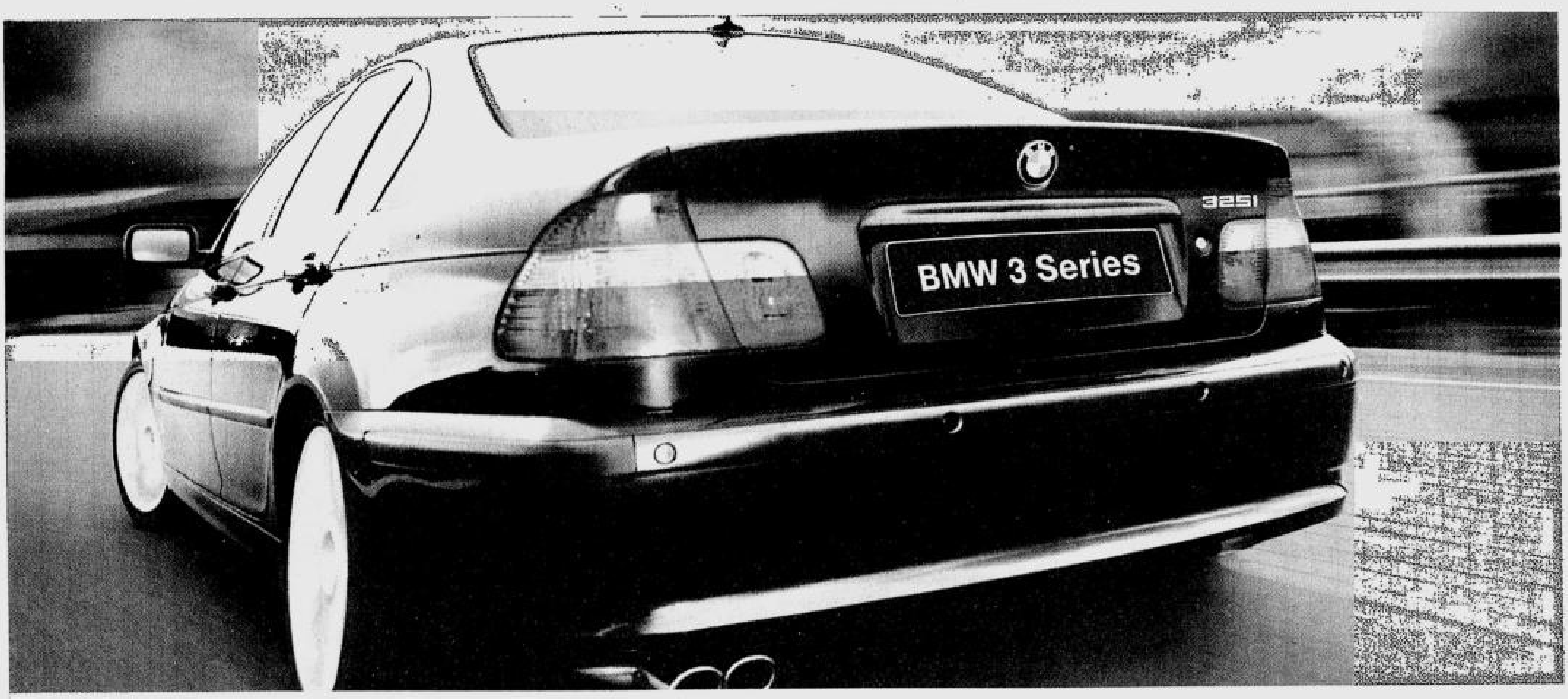

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# Sky, Home reach deal to settle ₱160M in debts to Star TV Asia

**By Abigail L. Ho**

AFTER almost six months of not being able to watch their favorite programs on Star TV, subscribers of Sky Vision Corp. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Corp. may now have reason to rejoice.

In a statement issued yesterday, Sky and Home announced that they had settled differences over fees and debts that they owed Star TV.

The agreement, signed in Cebu on Tuesday, would bring ESPN, Star Movies, Star Sports, National Geographic and Star World back to Sky's and Home Cable's program lineup.

"We are really pleased to have resolved the matter, enabling us to move forward in a positive and friendly manner to reach multi-year terms for the carriage of our channels across the Philippines' largest and most important platform," Star TV's president and chief operating officer, Bruce Churchill, said.

On Oct. 19 last year, Star TV pulled the plug on Sky and Home Cable on account of P160 million in unpaid subscription fees.

It has taken six months of negotiations for the three companies to settle their differences.

The agreement covers the settlement of past debts, as well as terms for the immediate distribution of Star TV's five channels over SkyCable and Home Cable.

"With the return of the Star Channels, our subscribers will now enjoy, more than ever, the widest range of quality programming than any other cable operator," Beyond Cable Inc. chief operating officer Carlos Tria said.

Beyond Cable is the holding company formed by the consolidation of Sky and Home Cable.

"We look forward to playing an increasingly prominent role in meeting the demand for quality sports, movies and entertainment programming from our viewers in the Philippines," Churchill said.

In an earlier interview, Tría said the important thing was for Star TV and the two cable firms to come up with "a right agreement that both of us can live with."

Sky and Home have a combined debt of around P3.5 billion.

Beyond Cable currently has a business plan that incorporates its debts to Star TV with its overall obligations.

# 3 Toledo Power stockholders selling out

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

A. SORIANO Corp., the Gokongwei group and an American stockholder are selling their stakes in Toledo Power Co. The three have started negotiations with interested foreign and local groups.

In an interview following Anscor's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday, Anscor chair and chief executive Andres Soriano III said Anscor was expecting to recover the book value of its 30-percent interest in the power company amounting to about P200 million.

JG Summit Holdings, the flagship holding company of the Gokongwei family, owns a 20-percent stake in TPC, which operates coal and bunker-fired power plants in Toledo, Cebu.

Soriano said the group of shareholders was currently in talks with several local and foreign power firms and a deal was likely to be finalized within the year.

TPC last year generated total sales of P641.6 million and an operating income of P127.6 million.

Net profit last year declined to P97.6 million from P128.3 million the year due largely to the increase in the prices of coal from Indonesia and the peso depreciation.

Soriano said Anscor was willing to sell out because the company was not comfortable being in the power business.

He also said that Anscor was planning to sell now because of the impending expiration of TPC's power contract with state-owned National Power Corp.

Effective July 2001, TPC stopped paying the 20 percent franchise tax on its revenue and all the company's sales were considered zero-rated for VAT purposes.

TPC was analyzing the effects of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act on its business plan.

Anscor reported a net income of P478.4 million last year, a reversal of the previous year's net loss of P310.9 million.

Soriano said that Anscor was not planning any investment this year although it would keep its eyes open for any opportunities.

# Equitable PCI seen to post Q1 profit of P120M

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's fourth largest lender, is expecting a net profit of P120 million in the first quarter of this year, bank president and chief executive officer Rene Buenaventura said Tuesday following the bank's annual stockholders' meeting.

Buenaventura said the bank had taken the necessary steps to establish a strong platform for growth and market leadership.

"We will continue to invest in world-class technology to deliver the service to our customers," he said. "We shall further build on our leadership positions in corporate banking, trust business, middle markets, investment banking, electronic banking, remittances, credit cards and consumer loans."

Equitable PCI Bank has recovered very well from a bank run in 2000 to early 2001 when then bank chair George Go was linked to the controversies involving former President Joseph Estrada.

The bank's capital adequacy ratio now stands at 11.4 percent, above the 10-percent level required by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. It plans to raise as much as P10 billion in tier 2 capital.

Last year, Equitable PCI Bank fully paid its P30-billion loan from the BSP, the first bank to pay a loan of such magnitude in a year's time.

Based on financial statements that were given a "qualified opinion" by external auditor SGV & Co., its net income amounted to P140 million in 2001.

Based on its annual report, however, the P140-million income should have been a net loss of P4.8 billion if generally accepted accounting principles were applied.

Auditing giant SGV noted that the bank booked P4.7 billion in provisions for probable losses directly as surplus rather than charging it to operations first.

Also, the bank had booked the income from the sale of its interest in subsidiary Bankard Inc. in 2001 instead of 2000.

*Elena R. Torrijos*

# Bourse elects new director

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange board yesterday unanimously elected Enrique Aboitiz Jr., president and CEO of shipping firm William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. (WG&A), non-broker director to fill in the vacancy left by former Manila Electric Co. president Mario Camacho who passed away recently.

PSE corporate secretary Francisco Villaroman said the board managed to get a quorum during a special board meeting held yesterday. All eight directors who attended the meeting voted for Aboitiz.

Camacho died Friday last week of aneurysm or rupture of stomach arteries.

Aside from 27 years of experience in the transport industry, Aboitiz also sits on the boards of Aboitiz & Co. Inc., Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Aboitiz Power Corp., Aboitiz One, Aboitiz Jebsen Bulk Transport, UBP Capital and Amanpulo Resorts.

He is also an honorary trade and investment representative of the Philippine government. He graduated with a BSBA degree in Economics (magna cum laude) from Gonzaga University in Washington.

The PSE pushed through with the special board meeting despite calls from five PSE directors led by Robert Coyiuto (R. Coyiuto Securities) to defer the appointment of a new non-broker director in deference to the untimely death of their colleague.

Coyiuto and four other directors who won under his slate—Eddie Gobing (Lucky Securities), Federico Lim (Belson Securities), Harry Liu (Summit Securities) and Edwin Luy (Triton Securities)—wrote to PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco on Tuesday to oppose the holding of the special board elections yesterday.

"He is not even buried yet, there is already a rush to fill in the vacancy. We believe that in keeping with the Filipino sense of delicadeza and in keeping with our culture in observing a period of mourning, the special board meeting should be deferred until after the lapse of a reasonable time," the five directors said. The majority of the PSE's 15-member board is controlled by non-brokers or private sector representatives.

A separate petition was likewise urgently filed by former PSE president Ramon Garcia at the Pasig Regional Trial Court on Tuesday to stop Yuchengco from calling such a meeting, citing his pending lawsuit questioning the validity of the election of the eight PSE non-broker directors. However, no temporary restraining order was issued as of yesterday.

# Napocor reviews 12 IPP deals, but no action yet

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

AT least 12 of 45 contracts between the National Power Corp. and independent power producers have been reviewed, but the government has to go through the other deals before it can decide on any action.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. declined in an interview yesterday to specify the contracts already reviewed.

"We have to finish everything because we need to compare the results of the review on each contract to decide on what to do," Perez told the INQUIRER.

He admitted that the review process hit a snag due to the appointment of former Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo as customs commissioner.

Bernardo used to lead the contracts review committee.

"We expect to get the process going again pretty soon," Perez said.

The Citizen's Review Commission on the IPPs (CRC-IPP), a private initiative, said, however, that the government's review of its contracts was not serious enough.

"(Press Secretary) Rigoberto Tiglao himself said that all the government could do was to 'convince' the IPPs to have the contracts renegotiated or rescinded," CRC-IPP commissioner Ma. Teresa Diokno-Pascual said in a statement released last week.

Pascual said Napocor's contracts gave independent power producers undue guarantees. The most controversial of these was the take-or-pay agreement.

"(Take-or-pay means) that Napocor has to pay up to 85 percent of the electricity supposedly generated by the IPPs even when only 10 to 40 percent of the power is used," she explained.

Pascual said the provisions of the contracts were responsible for the high cost of electricity that ordinary consumers were shouldering.

Napocor entered into long-term contracts with independent power producers under the Ramos administration to solve a crippling energy crisis that had plunged the country into eight- to 10-hour power outages in the early 1990s.

Most of these contracts guaranteed payments covering several years.

# *Lepanto sees hefty profit rise*

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co., one of the country's oldest mining firms, said it was expecting its profits to more than triple this year following its discovery of a new gold deposit in Benguet and in view of the rising gold prices in the world market.

Lepanto chief finance officer Brian Yap told stockholders in a meeting on Monday that the company's income would likely hit P800 million by the year's end, or a 333-percent increase from last year's P184.78 million.

He said the company was expected to produce 160,000 ounces of gold this year.

Gold prices opened at $299 per ounce in Hong Kong yesterday. Prices have been rising as some investors shifted funds from equities to commodities in view of global uncertainties brought about by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Yap reported to the stockholders that the company's net income, based on unaudited figures, hit P113 million in the first quarter of the year from P82.2 million in the same period last year. He said revenues reached about P500 million as gold production stood at 32,700 ounces during the period.

In March this year, Lepanto announced the discovery of a significant gold deposit in its existing mining site in Benguet. The new ore body, which it dubbed as Victoria II, is located southwest of its existing Victoria I deposit.

The company said that based on its preliminary findings, the resource was estimated to contain 1.3 million ounces of gold.

It further estimated that 1.3 million tons of the resources containing about 5.29 grams per ton of gold could be mined.

Lepanto, formerly known as Mankayan, was incorporated in 1936 after taking control of an ore mine that has been producing copper for over 600 years. *Doris C. Dumlao*

# DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Equitable PCI Bank** were Antonio Go, John Go, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Corazon de la Paz, Rene Buenaventura, Teresita Alegre, Anthony Conway, Enriqueta Disuanco, Ma. Luz Generoso, Frank Go, Genevieve Go, Peter Go Paillan, Aurora Mathay, Miguel Roca Jr. and Roberto Romulo.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.** were Felipe Yap, Artemio Disini, John Fairfield, Cielito Habito, Francisco Sebastian, Wilfrido Tecson, Arthur Ty, Bryan Yap and Cresencio Yap.

* * *

**CORRO-COAT Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 18, 2 p.m. at the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Cebu Holdings Inc.** were Francisco Licuanan III, Mercedita Nolledo, Jose Rene Almendras, Miriam Katigbak, Antonio Abacan Jr., Max Francisco Borromeo, Victor Chiongbian, Filomeno Francisco and Senen Matoto.

***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

# PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, April 17, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10,000 |
| Banco Filipino Sav & Mort | 99 | 99 | 99 | 99 | 1,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 68.5 | 71 | 68.5 | 70 | 1,574,200 |
| China Banking Corp. | 630 | 630 | 630 | 630 | 200 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 41 | 42 | 41 | 42 | 546,500 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 41.5 | 42 | 41.5 | 41.5 | 90,300 |
| Philippine National Bank | 56 | 56.5 | 56 | 56 | 5,000 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 27 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 3,200 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 3,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 22.5 | 23 | 22.5 | 23 | 17,000 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICE | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 30,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 220 | 220 | 220 | 220 | 70 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1410 | 1415 | 1410 | 1415 | 3,040 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 10,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1100 | 1120 | 1100 | 1115 | 23,760 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 35 | 35 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 3,100 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.62 | 0.64 | 0.62 | 0.63 | 5,940,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 800 | 805 | 800 | 805 | 19,030 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 0.79 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 100,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.047 | 0.048 | 0.047 | 0.047 | 5,200,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 20,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 35,000 |
| Piltel | 0.47 | 0.5 | 0.47 | 0.48 | 2,250,000 |
| Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 60,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 510 | 520 | 510 | 515 | 160,540 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.019 | 5,500,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 29.5 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 82,600 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 46.5 | 47.5 | 46.5 | 47.5 | 636,400 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.66 | 1.76 | 1.66 | 1.74 | 4,633,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 1.78 | 1.78 | 1.72 | 1.76 | 1,185,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 40,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 16,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.9 | 3.05 | 2.9 | 3.05 | 7,989,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 200,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Phil Nat'l Const. Corp. | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 11,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 670,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13 | 13.25 | 13 | 13 | 4,209,100 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 21.75 | 22 | 21.75 | 22 | 67,700 |
| RFM Corp. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1,342,000 |
| Swift Food Inc. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 13,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 47.5 | 47.5 | 46.5 | 46.5 | 188,900 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 61.5 | 61.5 | 58.5 | 59 | 412,300 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 200,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Atok-Big Wedge Inc. B | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 200 |
| Ayala Corp. | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6,961,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.04 | 2.04 | 2.04 | 2.04 | 228,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.57 | 350,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 62,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 100,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 55,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs. | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.14 | 110,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.65 | 0.66 | 0.61 | 0.64 | 32,780,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 150,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 950,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.245 | 0.25 | 810,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 10,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.38 | 1.46 | 1.38 | 1.44 | 1,772,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 30 | 31.5 | 30 | 31 | 461,500 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 1,140,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 10,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.85 | 0.87 | 0.85 | 0.87 | 2,880,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 470,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.61 | 0.65 | 0.61 | 0.62 | 290,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 2,060,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.3 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 540,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 500,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 200,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 17,500 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.57 | 0.58 | 0.57 | 0.58 | 3,440,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 3,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc. | 0.35 | 0.37 | 0.35 | 0.37 | 110,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr) | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 178,500 |
| Dmci Holdings Inc.-Pref. | 770 | 770 | 770 | 770 | 5,820 |
| Equitable PCI Bank-War | 1.3 | 1.32 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 204,000 |
| Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr) | 780 | 790 | 780 | 790 | 14,610 |
| Jollibee Warrants | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 8,200 |
| Macroasia Corp. Warrants | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 100,000 |
| Omico Corp. Warrant | 0.0002 | 0.0002 | 0.0002 | 0.0002 | 12,000,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series S | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,400 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,400 |
| Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 7,000,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 14,863,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.38 | 0.42 | 0.38 | 0.42 | 50,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 20,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.44 | 0.45 | 0.44 | 0.45 | 300,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 2,260,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 2.55 | 2.8 | 2.55 | 2.75 | 21,834,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 200,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 300,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 10,062,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines A | 0.044 | 0.045 | 0.044 | 0.045 | 28,200,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 210,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.21 | 0.215 | 0.21 | 0.215 | 150,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 9,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 1,000,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Interport Res. | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 4,000,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 5,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 2,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 1,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 170,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 1,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.0625 | 0.065 | 0.06 | 0.065 | 300,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 50,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 1,000,000 |

# CURRENCIES

April 17, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.133016 | 1.000000 | 50.9800 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008640 | 0.007626 | 0.3888 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.632563 | 1.440900 | 73.4571 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.145266 | 0.128212 | 6.5362 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.680817 | 0.600889 | 30.6333 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.716373 | 0.632271 | 32.2332 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.618121 | 0.545554 | 27.8123 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.602028 | 0.531350 | 27.0882 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 3.005508 | 2.652661 | 135.2327 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.302138 | 0.266667 | 13.5947 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.616440 | 0.544070 | 27.7367 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000120 | 0.000106 | 0.0054 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.026082 | 0.023020 | 1.1736 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.308489 | 0.272272 | 13.8804 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000861 | 0.000760 | 0.0387 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.882600 | 44.9949 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.488790 | 0.431406 | 21.9931 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134498 | 0.118708 | 6.0517 |
| India | Rupee | 0.023189 | 0.020467 | 1.0434 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.298162 | 0.263158 | 13.4158 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.123732 | 0.109206 | 5.5673. |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.497854 | 0.439406 | 22.4009 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.130995 | 0.115616 | 5.8941 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.018915 | 0.016694 | 0.8511 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.101253 | 0.089366 | 4.5559 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109128 | 0.096316 | 4.9102 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.025750 | 0.022727 | 1.1586 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.032484 | 0.028670 | 1.4616 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.001259 | 0.001111 | 0.0566 |

# Liquidity up 7.2% to ₱1.52T in January

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

MONEY supply grew by 7.2 percent in February against a year-on-year growth of 5.2 percent in the previous month, pushing the amount of funds in circulation slightly up to P1.524 trillion from P1.512 trillion.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas attributed the increase in domestic liquidity to the following: the reduction in the banks' reserve requirement to 16 percent early this year; the 8 percentage point decline in the BSP's overnight rates, and to inflow of the government's dollar borrowings.

The BSP, in a statement, said the growth in money supply was accompanied by a 7-percent year-on-year increase in loans to the public sector.

The contraction in credits extended to the private sector eased to 3.2 percent in February, from 5.7 percent the previous month.

The central bank is inclined to let domestic liquidity increase to as much as 13 percent this year but much of the growth may have to take place in the second half when the economy is also expected to grow faster.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said a month ago that if domestic liquidity, which measures money supply in the system, would not improve within the first half, the policy-making Monetary Board might consider further reduction in the banks' reserve requirement or the mandatory deposits to the BSP.

A senior central bank official yesterday said that given the improving level of money supply in the system, the monetary authorities might keep the reserve requirement at 16 percent for the rest of the year.

The BSP official said the four-percentage-point cut in the reserve requirement in December and January from 20 percent since August had yet to impact on money supply.

The decline in reserves should free up more than P50 billion in funds from the BSP vaults back into the system. But banks, for a time, kept much of the funds in the central bank's deposit windows.

Banks opt to park their money in risk-free government securities instead of lending for fear of higher loan defaults.

The BSP said that aside from the banks' reluctance to lend, the still weak economy continued to restrain expansion plans of private companies, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

# NSC creditors, Danaharta to start debt rehab talks

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

OFFICIALS of Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd., Malaysia's debt rehabilitation agency, are set to arrive in the country next month to finalize a debt restructuring program for the shuttered National Steel Corp.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said Danaharta managing director Abdul Hamidy Hafiz and other Danaharta officials were scheduled to meet on May 3 this year.

NSC creditor banks have already agreed to pursue a debt rehabilitation program where they would write off part of the banks' P16-billion exposure and convert the balance into equity.

NSC owes roughly P16 billion to 14 Philippines banks and financial institutions such as Philippine National Bank, Allied Banking Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, United Overseas Bank Philippines, Global Banking Corp., Bank of Commerce, China Banking Corp., Equitable-PCIBank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Traders Royal Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank, Urban Bank, Credit Agricole Indosuez and Wise Citco.

Roxas said the debt rehabilitation program would leave NSC with a more manageable debt level and Danaharta with a 20-percent equity. Danaharta took over the 82 percent equity of Renong-Hottick in 1999 as part of its bail out program.

Danaharta took over the 3-billion ringgit loan of Hong Kong's Hottick Investments Company from Malayan Banking, RHB Bank, Bank Bumiputra and Commerce Assetholding Bhd. Hottick, which is controlled by Malaysia's Renong Bhd, took control of NSC when it bailed out in 1997 the Westmont group, the Malaysian investors that won in the privatization of NSC.

THE BEST-RUN E-BUSINESSES RUN SAP

SAP

THE BEST WAY TO MANAGE A SUPPLY CHAIN IS TO KNOW THE DEMAND CHAIN

**April 23, 2002**
**Makati Shangri-La Hotel**

**Agenda**

Morning Session for C-Level Executives

8:00 am Registration
8:30 am **Welcome Remarks**
Ian Black, Managing Director,
SAP Philippines
8:35 am **Keynote**
Hon. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr.
Senate, Republic of the Philippines
8:55 am Zafar Momin,
Vice President, A. T. Kearney
10:10 am **Panel: Managing the New Battlefield**
Moderator:
Michael Alan Hamlin,
Managing Director, TeamAsia
Panelists:
Gilbreth Taylor Brown,
Senior Consultant, SAP Asia (Thailand)
Cortina Ma.
Regional Alliance Manager
SAP, Hewlett-Packard
Representative from IBM
Representative from T Systems
Noel Casanova, General Manager,
Quantum Foods Inc.
11:40 am **Introducing mySAP Supplier Relationship Management(SRM)**
Omar Masrur,
Director for Business Development
of SAP Markets Asia Pacific
11:55 am **Closing Remarks**
Marivic Segismundo Gamo,
Marketing & Alliance Manager,
SAP Philippines

Afternoon Session for Managers and IT Professionals

12:30 pm Registration
1:00 pm **Welcome Remarks**
Ian Black, Managing Director,
SAP Philippines
1:15 pm **Managing the New Battlefield I**
Zafar Momin,
Vice President, A. T. Kearney
2:15 pm **Breakout Sessions**
Customer Relationship Management
Supplier Relationship Management
Portals and eMarketplaces
Supply Chain Management
3:30 pm **Managing the New Battlefield II**
Zafar Momin,
Vice President, A. T. Kearney
5:00 pm **Closing Remarks**
Marivic Segismundo Gamo,
Marketing & Alliance Manager,
SAP Philippines

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Featuring **Zafar A. Momin**
**Vice President of AT KEARNEY**

**REPLY FORM**

**Yes, please sign me up!**
☐ Morning Session for C-Level Executives (Rizal A)
☐ Afternoon Session for IT Professionals (Rizal A & B)

Name ______
Position ______
Company ______
Address ______
Tel ______
Fax ______
Mobile ______
Email ______

**Fax your registration forms to 5460914 or 8423308.**
For inquiries, please call Melynn at TeamAsia
Tel (632) 5460908, 8076370.
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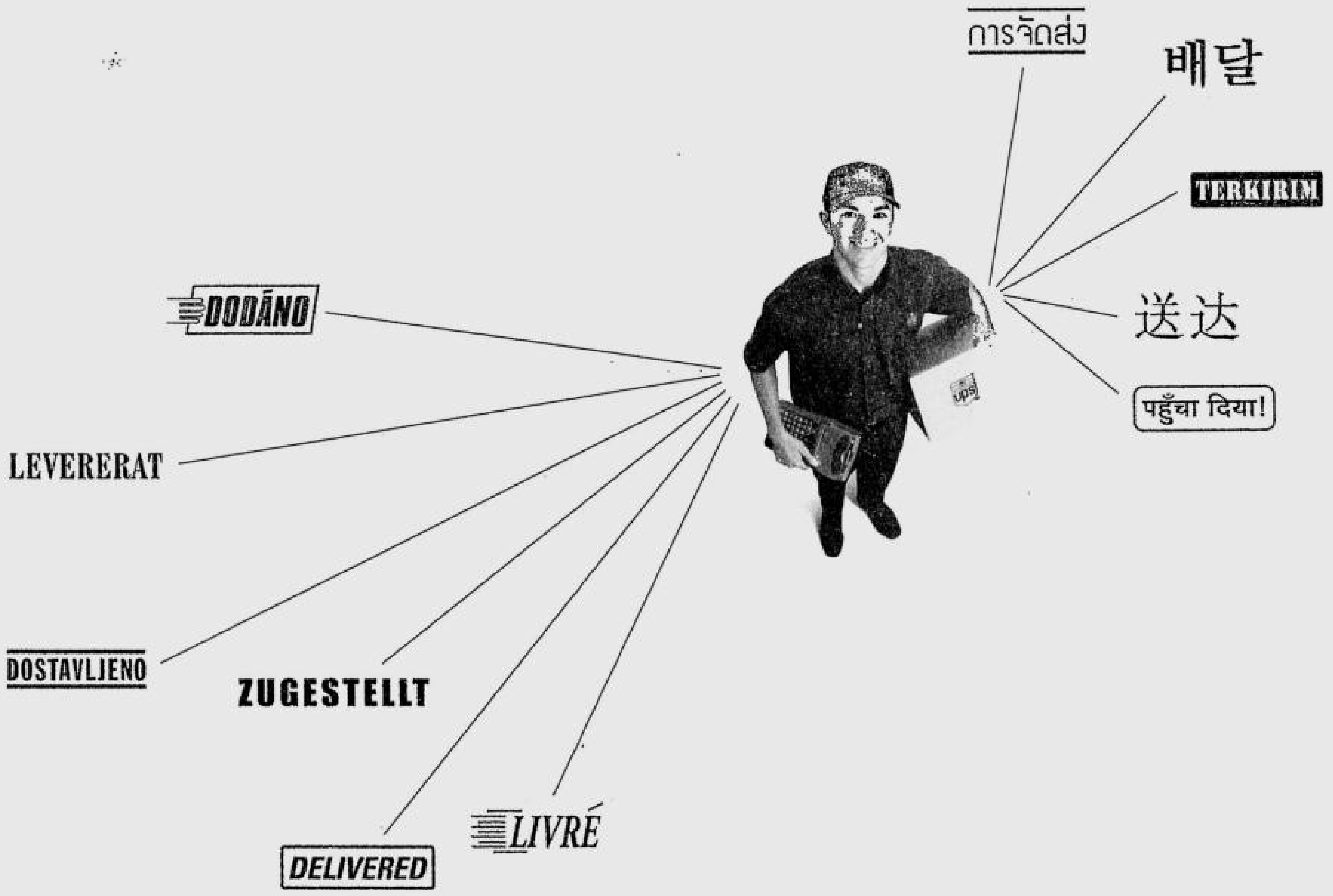

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# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

# PCTA, DOST lead 3-day int'l cable show in Cebu

TRANSPORTATION and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez led government and business leaders April 17 in kicking off the three-day international cable show envisioned to lead this multimillion-peso industry to new and better paths for business and technological development.

Dubbed Cable Show 2002, the event is staged by the Philippine Cable Television Association (PCTA) at the Cebu International Convention Center in the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel up to Friday, April 19.

With the theme "Cable 101: Back to Basics," the show comprises a product and technology exhibit and a PCTA conference featuring top local and international speakers to discuss burning industry issues, including specific business concerns and how to bring about the so-called "convergence".

The show, according to the PCTA, will thus enable the local industry players to link up with international suppliers, shop for newest programs and equipment, and exchange information with government executives, program providers, and manufacturers from Asia, Europe and the United States.

The event was opened by Alvarez, with a keynote address after welcome remarks from Cable 2002 chair Raul R. Monasterio, PCTA president Manuel Z. Dabao, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Rep. Simeon Kintanar of the House transportation and communications committee, and PCTA vice president for Mindanao Jose L. Lobregat.

Alvarez also led a luncheon session to tackle the convergence bill and related issues. He was joined by Kintanar and National Telecommunications Commissioner Eliseo Rio Jr. and deputy commissioner Jane Borje.

Now on its 10th year, Cable Show 2002 is managed by event organizer Worldexco and supported by TV 5 Monde, Cable Boss, Philippine Airlines, NU 107, Television Asia, Telecable, Viewers Magazine, and PCTA-member companies.

**DON BOSCO RECOGNIZES NESTLE LIPA**

Nestle Philippines Lipa Factory recently received a plaque from Don Bosco Technical College in Canlubang for supporting the dual training system and Technical Skills Scholarship Program. Shown is Nestle Lipa HRM supervisor Lea Lonzanida accepting the award.

ors Phil Corp
ERDA Tech
urce Exchange Foun
March 2002

**MITSUBISHI EXTENDS TRAINING SUPPORT**

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines recently signed a contract to extend its training assistance to Erda Tech (Educational Research and Development Assistance for Technical and Vocational Secondary School Foundation, Inc.), a non-stock, non-profit educational institution which provides quality education for the socially disadvantaged youth of Metro Manila. This project aims to mould disadvantaged young people toward a better life by developing their automotive technical expertise and skills. With this project, Mitsubishi will be able to help build the future of the financially depressed youth deserving of good education. MMPC's Service Operations Training Program includes conducting high-level skills training, exposure to actual job and potential hiring for those qualified. Shown are MMPC's SVP-Marketing Mel Dizon (left) shaking hands with Fr. Pierre Tritz, S.J., President of Erda Tech. Also at the MOA signing were Jonathan T. Gotianun, president of Philippine Resource Exchange Foundation, Inc. a non-profit charitable foundation which initiated and facilitated this partnership and Romy Espiritu, MMPC's Service Manager.

# Zalamea elected new IIAP chair

ACTUARY Enrique M. Zalamea, Jr., former president of PhilHealth, is the newly elected chair of the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific (IIAP). The Institute is a non-stock, non-profit corporation that primarily provides educational training programs in insurance in Asia and the Pacific. IIAP was awarded the Educational Service Provider of the Year during the 4th Asia Insurance Industry Awards 2000, besting some of the most prestigious institutions in Asia.

The general management of the Institute is vested in the board of trustees, with 15 trustees elected by the members of the Institute. With Zalamea in the board are Armando Trinidad, president of Fortune Life Insurance Corp., Victoria Roman-Flores, president of R&B Insurance Corp., Renato Vergel de Dios, president of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, Peter Coyiuto, president of First Guarantee Life Assurance, James Lim, president of Perla Compania de Seguros Inc., Matias Simbulan, president of Malayan Reinsurance Corp., Conrado dela Cruz, president and actuary of Aegon Life Insurance Phils., Reynaldo Centeno, EVP and actuary of Philamlife, Luz Cotoco, EVP of Oriental Assurance Corp., Teresita Isip, EVP of Meridian Assurance Corp., Ignacio Macrohon, general counsel of Philippine Life Insurance Association, Jose Clemente of the Philippine British Assurance, Manuel Quijano of the ACE-Insurance Company of North America, and Robert Morris.

Zalamea said that IIAP has developed and offered sustainable and well-planned educational programs and related services designed to upgrade professionalism, expertise, and performance among insurance practitioners not only in the Philippines but throughout Asia and the Pacific.

AYALAPORT
MAKATI

**AYALAPORT MAKATI BAGS JAPANESE CLIENT**

Ayala Port Makati, the country's first purposely-built world-class data center, recently inked an agreement with Trustcom Inc., a business firm based in Japan. TrustCom has subscribed to AyalaPort Makati's Colocation and Connectivity Services. Shown is Suzuki Haru of YS Telecom representing TrustCom sealing the formal agreement with a handshake with Alexandra Ganzon, sales associate, during his recent site visit to AyalaPort Makati Data Center. AyalaPort Makati Data Center also offers hosting, managed services and business continuity services from simple tape back-up to more complex disaster recovery solutions as well as security services like intrusion detection, firewall, and virus-control. AyalaPort Makati can also provide companies with professional and consultancy services.

# Pasig River conservation now taught in public schools

"START 'EM young." This is primarily the objective of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) and the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida) when they embarked on a project that produced teaching modules incorporating the conservation and rehabilitation of Pasig River.

PRRC and Danida recently hosted a dinner at the Manila Peninsula Hotel for the writers and publishers of the supplementary teaching materials and a reference book on Pasig River.

Department of Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, chair of the PRRC and Ambassador Peter Rosting of the Danish Royal Embassy were the guests and speakers in the affair.

Costing more than P17 million, the teaching modules (724,200 copies produced) were distributed to nine Metro Manila school divisions.

The reference book "Pasig River, Caring for a Dying Ecosystem," on the other hand is a guide for teachers in the use of the PRRC-Danida Supplementary Teaching Materials.

Unilever Philippines and the Rotary Club of Manila also sponsored the printing of another 150,000 books for schools located in District 5 and 6 in Manila.

Unilever also donated trophies and plaques of appreciation to the writers and editors of the books.

## BITS Clips

### JASHS general homecoming

THE JOSE Abad Santos High School Alumni Association Inc., Meisic, Binondo, Manila invites all graduates from 1949 to 2001 to its grand alumni homecoming on April 21, Sunday, at 6 p.m. at the Philippine Columbian Club, Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. For details and reservations, call Lilibeth B. Machuca at 821-2370 or 823-5109, Albert Concepcion at 363-0113, Rudy Esquivel at 364-1374, and Carol Isaac at 251-8959.

### Positivist Tagle goes 'OA'

IN 1991 former President Aquino signed Presidential Proclamation 712 to observe annually "Positive Thinking Week" from April 13 to 22. Since its proclamation, positivism exponent and painter ER Tagle has been presenting simultaneous exhibits of his paintings. This April, Tagle exhibits his recent paintings he titled "OA" (Overflow of Abundance) simultaneously at Elks Club's Heritage Restaurant in Makati City, at the 7th floor of Corinthian Plaza corner Gamboa Streets, and at the artist's gallery at 1144 Chino Roces Avenue. Starting April 20, 20 "OA" paintings will be at the inaugural exhibit of the new Galeria de Nava at Julio Nakpil, Malate, Manila. Allegro Café at the ground level of Glorietta 3, Ayala Center (in front of Landmark) will present Tagle's recent nude paintings until April 30. For inquiries, call 816-0904.

### E-commerce expo fuels the industry

TO PROVIDE for an ideal promotional interactive medium for the continuous acceptance for online business transactions, especially among the country's SME, Exposition Communications Group Inc. (www.xpocomm.com), a professional event management group serving the trade promotions industry since 1991, in collaboration with e-commerce industry professionals, is once again staging E-Commerce Expo 2002—the 2nd Philippine International Business Forum and Technology Exhibition on Internet and Electronic Commerce. The event will be held from April 18 to 21 at the SM Megatrade Hall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. This event is supported by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. as it runs parallel with his thrust to provide venues for education and interaction for e-commerce in the country.

### Caregiver class on April 24

SHARP-Karilagan Training Academy (SKTA), accredited by the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda), opens its class for caregivers on April 24. The program consists of 750 hours classroom activities. The training will be conducted by a carefully selected team of trainers with a solid background and experience in the healthcare industry. Enrollment is ongoing. Big discounts for early enrollees are offered. Catch the promo "10% 4 every 3." SKTA is located at the fifth floor of the Shipping Centre Building, 707 A. Soriano Avenue, Intramuros, Manila (in front of Manila Cathedral). Call 527-6418 or 527-1590, or e-mail skta@cfsharp.com.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos.: 743-8301 locals 1125, 1132; Direct 711-9502, 711-9503
Fax No. (632) 743-1829, 743-1786
E-mail Address: osec@doh.gov.ph

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to payment under the contract for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now requests price quotations for the supply and delivery of 73,208,000 tablets of Ferrous Sulfate with Folic Acid. International Shopping procedures will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines.
3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidders at the PROCUREMENT AND LOGISTICS SERVICE, DOH, Building No. 25, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) or ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$150.00), including mail fee for foreign suppliers. The method of payment may be in cash or bank draft.
4. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Department of Health's Multi Media Conference Room, Sta. Cruz, Manila at 9:00 a.m. on **30 April 2002.**
5. Quotations must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. on **31 May 2002**

**Multi Media Conference Room**
**Department of Health**
**Building No. 18 San Lazaro Compound**
**Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines**
**Phone No.: (632) 338-6259**
**Telefax No.: (632) 743-7236**

6. Quotations must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two (2) percent of the total Bid Price in the currency of the quotation or another freely convertible currency. Late quotations shall be rejected. Quotations will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address, at 10:00 a.m. on **31 May 2002.**
7. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by you in connection with the preparation or delivery of your quotations.
8. In the comparison of quotations, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
9. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to annul the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such quotation as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Apr. 18 & 19, 2002)

National Power Corporation
Small Power Utilities Group
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID
For the SALE of Waste Oil & Used Drums
"as is, where is"
Date of Bid Opening : May 3, 2002

| ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION | MINIMUM BID PRICE |
|---|---|
| WASTE OIL (Bunker) at Calapan DPP, Calapan, Mindoro | P1.22/Liter |
| DRUMS, Used at PB120, Balanacan Pier, Mogpog, Marinduque | P614.25/pc |
| WASTE OIL (Bunker), One (1) Year Accumulation of PB120, Balanacan Pier, Mogpog, Marinduque | P1.22/Liter |
| WASTE OIL (Bunker), One (1) Year Accumulation of PB106 Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa | P1.22/Liter |

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until the abovestated date, 2:00 PM at NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Bldg., NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2000) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P.F. VICTORIA at the above address or call tel. No. 9228449/9213541 Local 5583.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) R.C. CASTILLO
Chairman

(PDI--April 18, 19 & 20, 2002)

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late PID PERMEJO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 1314163; Page No. 73; Book No. 14 Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty Rafael Candelaria Jr. of Mandaluyong City
(PDI-April 18, 25 & May 2, 2002)

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### FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERS

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### LEGAL NOTICE

The estate of Filomeno Bajar, Sr. had been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 63, Page No. 14 Book No. V, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Jimmy Lacebal of Mandaluyong City dated March 25, 2002. (PDI-April 4, 11 & 18, 2002)

### PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful inter-cessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Civil Registrar
Province of Cebu
Cebu City

### PETITION FOR CHANGE OF FIRST NAME

I, Evelyn Oliva Emperado, 52 years old and a resident of 748 Jagobiao, Mandaue City after having been duly sworn to in accordance to law hereby declare that:

I am the petitioner seeking the Change of First Name in the/my Certificate of Live Birth, Evelyn Oliva Emperado. That was born on September 14, 1949 in Roxas City, Capiz, Philippines and is recorded under registry number 899-49.

The first name to be changed is from BELEN to Evelyn. The reason for filing this petition is that I/he/she has been habitually and continuously using Evelyn and I am publicly known in the community with that first name and all my school and employment bears the name Evelyn Oliva.

That I have not filed any similar petition and that to the best of my knowledge, no other similar petition is pending with LCRO, Court of Philippine Consulate. I have no pending criminal, civil or administrative case in any court or any quasi-judicial body.

That am filing this petition at the LCRO of Cebu City in accordance with R.A. No. 9048 and its implementing rules and regulations.

(Sgd.) Evelyn O. Emperado
*Petitioner*

(PDI--April 18 & 25, 2002)

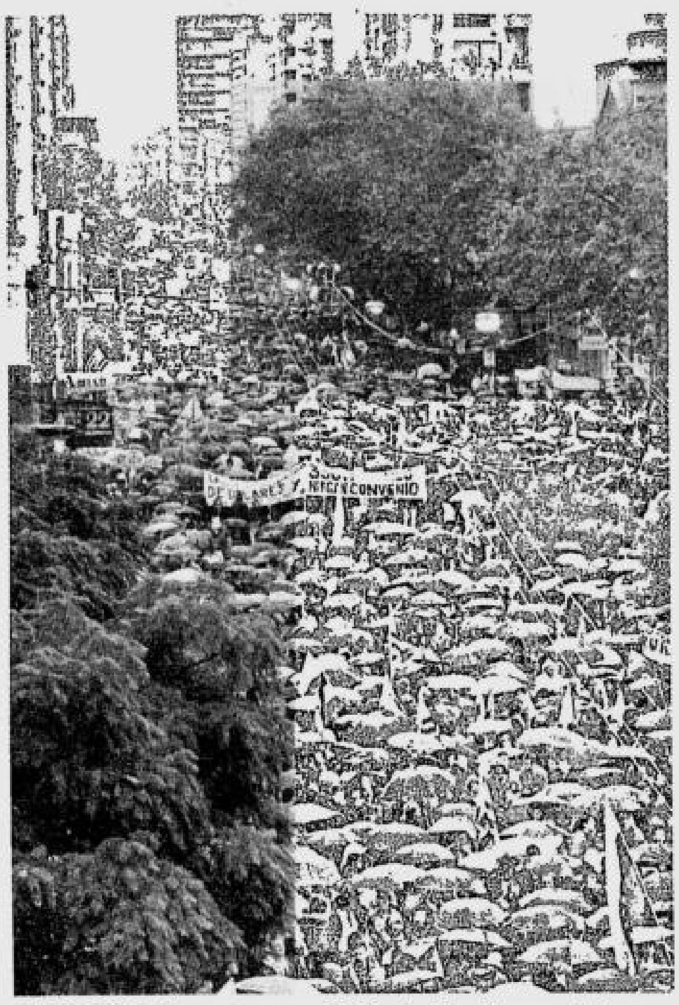
### NOTICE OF LOSS

The following series of Official Receipt Nos. **209578** to **209600** of **Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation** was lost. The public is hereby warned not to accept/ honor the above-mentioned Official Receipts.

For any attempt to issue the said Official Receipts, please call **816-6501** local **6617** or **6007**.

(PDI - April 17 & 18, 2002)

# New data show US economy picking up pace



**THOUSANDS** of protesters march in Montevideo, Uruguay, during a demonstration called "Because Another Uruguay is Possible." The march was called for by workers and businessmen to protest the nation's economic crisis. Uruguay is in its fourth year of recession, with a 14.4-percent unemployment rate and a national deficit at 4 percent of gross national product. AFP

WASHINGTON—The US economy is picking up pace, according to experts, as fresh data show industry accelerating production and core inflation in check.

But one key question hung over the economy: Can the recovery be sustained?

US factories, power plants and mines pushed up production 0.7 percent in March, the Federal Reserve said. Manufacturers alone boosted output 0.8 percent.

Factory output of computers, communications equipment and semiconductors—a broad measure of the high technology sector—advanced 1.4 percent, the data showed.

"The industrial production is showing us that we are coming out of the recession. The weak part of our economy is starting to strengthen," Conference Board economist Delos Smith said.

"It was the industrial side that created the recession. That is coming back. The question is how sustainable is that? That is the one that is not answered because we just don't know."

Investors cheered the data. Wall Street's blue chip barometer, the Dow Jones industrial average, leapt 207.65 points, or 2.06 percent, to close at 10,301.32.

Inflationary concerns were put to rest by government data showing core consumer prices, which excluded food and energy, crawled just 0.1 percent higher in March after rising 0.3 percent in February.

US Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan and his colleagues could leave interest rates at the current 40-year low of 1.75 percent for some time without fear of losing control over prices, experts said.

"The drop in the core measure was a positive surprise," Sal Guatieri, Chicago-based economist at Bank of Montreal, said.

"The Fed has just a little more time to see more evidence that the recovery will be durable and strong before it starts to unwind the stimulus."

Federal Reserve policymakers last year slashed the target for the federal funds rate to 1.75 percent from 6.50 percent to stimulate growth and cushion the economy from the Sept. 11 attacks.

Guatieri said he expected the Federal Open Market Committee policymakers to raise the target by 25 basis points at their June 25-26 meeting rather than their next meeting on May 7.

**GREENSPAN**

The only new cloud over the economy was cast by data showing groundbreaking on new homes plunged 7.8 percent in March from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.646 million. *AFP*

# Asia-Pacific hotel industry seen stabilizing this year

SINGAPORE—The Asia-Pacific hotel industry should stabilize this year, with Thailand the star performer, and tourists from China boosting occupancies in Hong Kong and Singapore, industry executives said Wednesday.

Japanese companies are expected to continue selling hotel assets at home and abroad, while industry opportunities are most attractive in Australia, Indonesia and Japan, they told a conference here.

A global travel squeeze resulting from Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States using hijacked planes to slam into buildings hammered the hotel industry last year.

"We are expecting occupancies in Asia to stabilize, with some growth in average room rate going into the fourth quarter (of 2002)," said Scott Hetherington, Asia vice president for property consultancy Jones LangLasalle Hotels.

"We are also expecting hotel values to stabilize after an average fall of 10 to 15 percent across all markets in 2001," he said.

Jimmy Koh, the head of treasury research of United Overseas Bank in Singapore, said the US economy was well on the way to a recovery and should help economies in the region.

"Overall, there are risks to the US recovery, but the risks are fairly contained," he said, citing the resilience of American consumers and keeping an eye on a possible, but unlikely, oil embargo arising from the Middle East conflict.

Experts pointed to opportunities in China, as well as the impact of Chinese tourists visiting countries in the region.

Koh noted that China took in $47 billion in foreign direct investments in 2001, or 70 percent of the total investments into Asia, up from 30 percent 10 years ago.

Rutger Smits, director for hospitality and leisure services at Arthur Andersen, said China would be "the success story of 2002." *AFP*

# Toyota sets up transmission venture in Bangalore, India

TOKYO—Toyota Motor Corp. has set up a joint venture to produce manual transmissions in India.

Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts Ltd., established in India's southern city of Bangalore on April 10, is capitalized at about 8.8 billion yen (about $67 million), Toyota said.

Japan's largest automaker said it was investing about 6 billion yen ($45 million) in the project.

With an annual production capacity of 160,000 manual transmissions, the new company would start operations in June 2004, Toyota said.

All transmissions to be produced at the Bangalore plant would be exported to a yet unspecified market, Toyota spokesperson Nami Kanda said.

The new joint venture is 64 percent owned by Toyota, 26 percent by Toyota Industries Corp., a Toyota group company, and the remaining 10 percent by Kirloskar Systems Ltd., an Indian auto parts firm.

In 1999, Toyota Motor began producing the "Qualis" passenger model in another joint venture with Kirloskar Systems in Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka state, at an annual rate of 50,000 vehicles. All Qualis models are sold in India.

That joint venture is 99 percent owned by Toyota Motor and the remaining one percent by Kirloskar Systems, a unit of the Kirloskar Group, an Indian conglomerate. *AP*

# GM profits soar on strong results from North America

DETROIT—General Motors Corp. on Tuesday said first-quarter profits soared before one-time charges on strong results in the key North American market, and the No. 1 automaker raised its forecasts for full-year earnings and production.

The news was greeted enthusiastically on Wall Street, where GM shares closed up $2.95, or nearly 5 percent, at $64.05 on the New York Stock Exchange, their highest level since last July.

GM's first-quarter net earnings fell slightly due to a $407-million charge for job cuts and asset write-downs in Europe.

But investors focused on a jump in earnings before one-time charges to $645 million from $225 million a year earlier.

"That's a hell of a good number," said analyst David Bradley of JP Morgan Chase "They're doing very, very well market share-wise in trucks. They make high margins on trucks, and the more they make, the more the company makes."

Shares of rivals Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG rallied in tandem with GM.

Ford ended up 80 cents, or 5.3 percent, at $15.86, while DaimlerChrysler jumped $2.62, or 5.8 percent, at $47.40 on the New York Stock Exchange.

GM, citing strength in the domestic market where the world's largest automaker has been stealing market share in highly profitable trucks from Ford and DaimlerChrysler, raised its US sales forecast and its earnings estimate for the full year.

While overseas operations continued to be a headache, GM's core North American auto operations surged, producing profits of $625 million, up from $120 million previously. *Reuters*

# Thai Q1 car sales rev up 35%

BANGKOK—Thailand's first-quarter vehicle sales surged 35.5 percent year-on-year, boosted by an economic recovery, low interest rates and growing private consumption, the industry said Wednesday.

January-March vehicle sales reached 83,655 units, with March alone hitting 32,126 units, said industry statistics compiler Toyota Motors Thailand.

Impressive first-quarter growth was reported in every auto sector, including 17.6 percent for passenger cars, 43.2 percent in pickups and 44.6 percent for commercial vehicles.

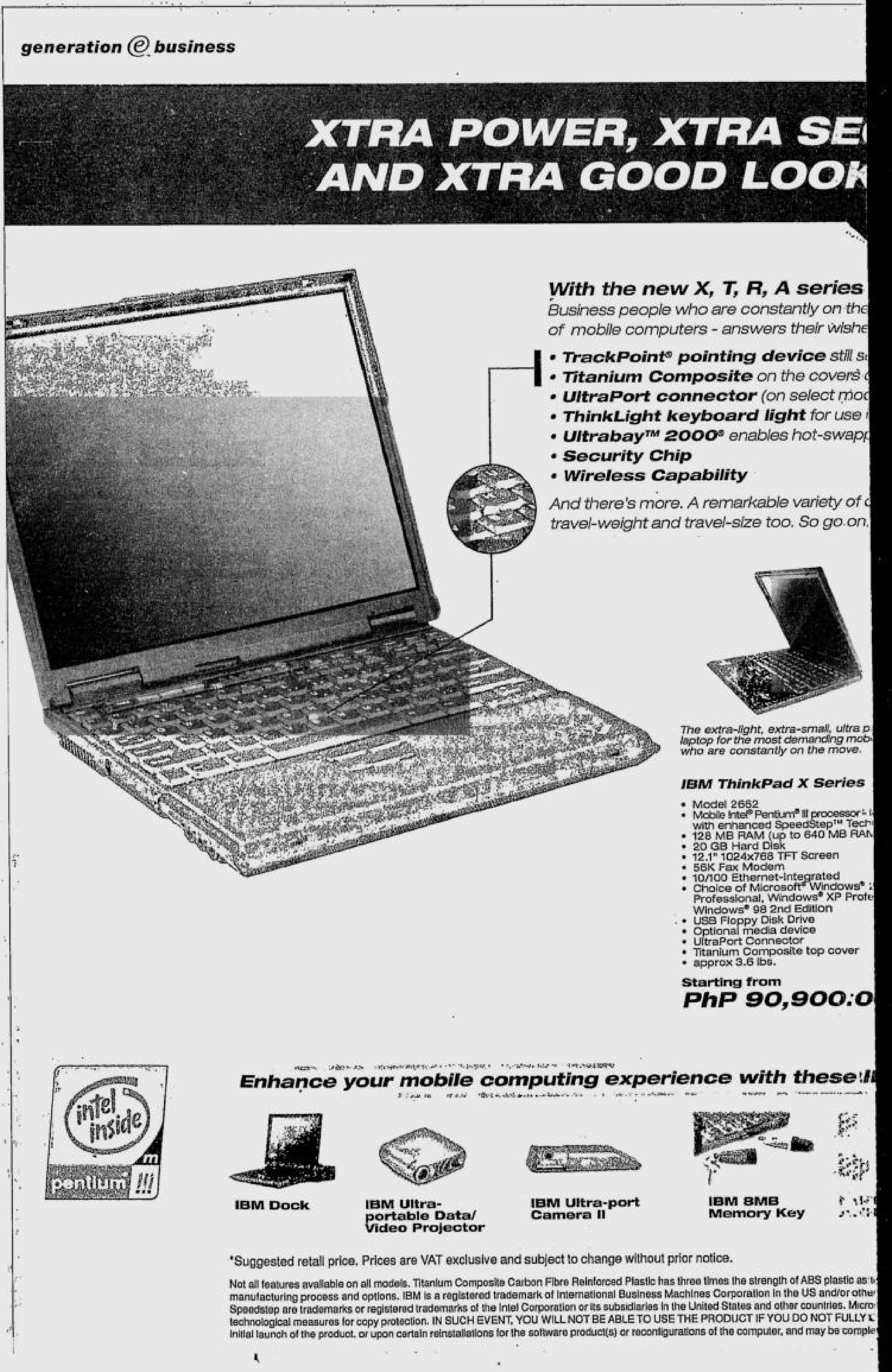
"The significant growth in the one-ton pickup truck and commercial vehicle sectors reflected rosy recovery of economy in line with revised growth forecasts of 2 to 3 percent by the National Economic and Social Development Board," Toyota said in a statement.

Sales by Japanese automakers Toyota, Isuzu and Nissan accounted for 64.3 percent of first-quarter market share, or some 53,847 units.

Thai auto sales are expected to grow 18 percent this year to 350,000 vehicles. A total of 297,052 vehicles were sold in 2001.

Last week, Ninnart Chaithirapinyo, vice chair of the Federation of Thai Industries, said lower interest rates were the main factor swaying consumers' decisions to splash out for new cars.

Ninnart, who was also vice chair of Toyota Motor Thailand, said most people tended to change cars every six years, and that for each of the 1995 and 1996 boom years, sales were between 500,000 and 600,000 vehicles, adding to hopes for strong sales this year. *AFP*



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# World Bank says Southeast Asia risks marginalization

SEVERAL major Southeast Asian countries risk being marginalized unless their economic reforms keep pace with their neighbors, World Bank regional chief economist Homi Kharas said here Tuesday.

While many East Asian nations had committed themselves to such reforms, they often ran into obstacles, such as vested interests and disagreements among policymakers, that made implementation uneven, Kharas told AFP on the sidelines of a poverty forum.

He warned that countries delaying reforms would "just simply become marginalized."

He cited the case of Myanmar "which has not engaged in reforms for decades and which is marginal to the region as a whole," despite its large population and rich natural resources.

China and Vietnam "are pursuing reforms (and) will continue to make progress. If other countries in the region don't keep pace, they will slowly become more marginalized from the perspective of the international financial community," Kharas said.

Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, which were all hurt by the 1997 Asian financial crisis, were still "fragile" and in danger of being marginalized, he said.

Many of the Southeast Asian nations hit by the 1997 crisis had failed to fully address the weaknesses that were exposed and had slowed down the pace of reform once their economies showed signs of recovering, he said.

"There is still a residue of tremendous unfinished business," Kharas warned.

The crisis, caused by tumbling currencies, pushed the economies in the region to their worst recession in decades.

Smaller economies such as Laos, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea could also be left behind, Kharas warned.

In contrast, Malaysia "has been more successful in pushing through with restructuring," he said, remarking that Kuala Lumpur had swiftly established new agencies to carry out key measures shortly after the crisis hit.

"Malaysia also starts from a position of having perhaps better developed institutions than other countries in the region," Kharas said.

Kharas said there was a relatively small window of opportunity for implementing reforms before political campaigning for key elections begins in some Southeast Asian countries, effectively slowing down reform measures.

"Many governments in the region have laid out an agenda of policy reform. We now hope in the next 12 months, we will actually see them implementing that agenda," Kharas said. *AFP*

# HK told to fix deficit or risk downgrade

HONG KONG—International rating agency Standard & Poor's urged the Hong Kong government on Wednesday to do more to erase its fiscal deficit or face a possible ratings downgrade, which could boost borrowing costs and put more pressure on the weak economy.

But S&P associate director Chew Ping did not set a specific timeframe for the territory to resolve its budget problem.

"If they don't fix the fiscal problem, of course there is pressure (for a rating downgrade)," Chew said.

"We are giving the benefit of the doubt to the government (for now), waiting for the economy to recover. The question is, of course, when. There is no fixed time whatsoever," he added.

S&P rates Hong Kong local long-term currency at AA minus and foreign long-term currency at A-plus. Both ratings have stable outlook.

"Hong Kong has a very strong fiscal position, even if the fiscal deficit continues according to what the budget is projecting," Chew said.

"By the end of fiscal 2006, you are still talking about 18 percent of GDP in net asset position and it is not found in many sovereigns," he said.

Hong Kong, struggling to emerge from its second recession in four years, expects the deficit for fiscal 2001-2002 will total HK$65.6 billion (US$8.41 billion).

The figure was widely believed to be a record and far larger than the government's original estimate of HK$3 billion.

In his maiden budget speech last month, Financial Secretary Antony Leung vowed to balance the books in five years. But he took few concrete steps to boost revenues and slash spending.

Chew said the government needed to move soon on tax reforms to plug the budget gap, even if the economy remained weak. *Reuters*

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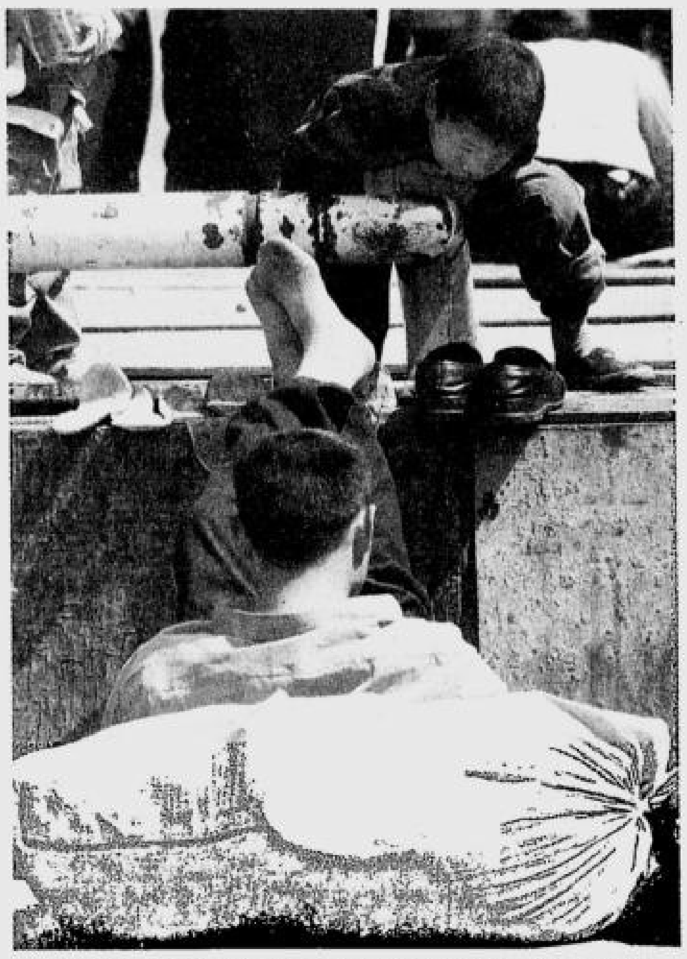

A YOUNG beggar boy tries to coax a man, resting on a sidewalk, to spare him some loose change along a street in Beijing. The state-controlled Chinese Academy of Social Sciences estimates there are between 200,000 and 500,000 streetchildren across China, but it is almost impossible to distinguish these children from those who are forced to beg or sell flowers by their parents or those who have been simply sold or kidnapped by gangs. AFP

# Non-oil exports down 17.3% in recession-hit Singapore

SINGAPORE—Singapore's government said Wednesday that the city-state exported S$7.89 billion (US$4.31 billion) worth of non-oil products in March, a 17.3-percent decline compared with the same period a year ago.

The drop was due to the slack global demand for electronic goods, which were the driving force of Singapore's economy.

The figure was slightly worse than expected. Ten economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires forecast an average 16.4-percent fall.

The decline follows a 23.4-percent year-on-year fall in February and marked the 13th straight month of contraction in Singapore's non-oil exports.

There are signs that the economy is improving, the news release said.

Although electronics exports contracted by 18.6 percent in March, the decline was marginally smaller than the 19.3-percent year-on-year slump in February.

There was little demand in March for computers, computer parts and telecommunications equipment, but demand for circuits and disk drives improved, the government said. *AP*

# Chinese prices plunge even as economy picks up in Q1

BEIJING—Falling prices plagued China in the first quarter of the year despite a stronger-than-expected economic growth, a top government statistician said Wednesday.

China's economy expanded 7.6 percent in the first three months from the same period last year, while consumer prices fell 0.6 percent, said Qiu Xiaohua, vice director of the National Bureau of Statistics.

"In the first quarter the national economy started off well," he said at a press conference. "But there are a few problems that need attention, most importantly the decline in prices."

China, Asia's second largest economy, has set a growth target of 7 percent for the full year, which is considered the minimum to prevent mass unemployment and social unrest.

Economic planners have also said they target prices to rise this year by as much as 2 percent.

While consumer prices rose 0.7 percent last year as a whole, they started declining in November. In the month of March alone, they were down 0.8 percent from a year earlier.

The plunge has been particularly steep in the cities, where consumer prices fell 0.9 percent in the first quarter.

Analysts said there was not much Chinese policymakers could do about falling prices, given the macroeconomic cards they were dealt.

"So many people are pooling into the labor force, and they have to be competitive on the wages," said Andy Xie, chief economist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in Hong Kong.

"That means improvements in productivity go into price declines," he said.

Qiu said he believed the trend for falling prices could be halted, and that the government maintained its target for inflation of up to 2 percent.

One reason for optimism was that prices have been falling because raw materials and fuel have become cheaper, he said.

"Beginning in April, because of unrest in the Middle East, oil prices may pick up," he said.

Qiu predicted the economy would "maintain relatively fast development" throughout the first half of the year, although it would be hard to beat last year's 7.8-percent growth in the second quarter. *AFP*

# Intel meets Q1 expectations

SAN JOSE, California—Intel Corp. posted first-quarter earnings and revenues in line with analysts' expectations Tuesday, indicating the chip-making giant had moved beyond the technology downturn's low point.

Though sales of microprocessors were stronger than expected and business overall was stable, the company had yet to see a return of strong sales growth, said Andy Bryant, Intel's chief financial officer.

"What we're seeing right now is seasonality," Bryant said. "We are not seeing any kind of recovery yet."

For the three months ended March 30, Intel earned $936 million, or 14 cents a share, compared with profits of $485 million, or 7 cents per share, in the same period last year.

The sharp increase was largely due to the adoption of new accounting rules regarding acquisitions.

Excluding one-time items, the chipmaker earned $1 billion, or 15 cents a share, compared with $1.1 billion, or 16 cents a share, in the first quarter of last year.

First-quarter sales were $6.8 billion, a 2-percent increase over last year's first-quarter revenues of $6.7 billion.

Analysts were expecting profits of 15 cents per share on revenues of $6.79 billion, according to a survey by Thomson Financial/First Call.

The company also took a $155-million charge related to the settlement of a long-running patent dispute with Intergraph Corp. The charge reduced first-quarter earnings by about a penny per share. *AP*

## HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

Makati Avenue, Makati City

### INVITATION TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Bidding Committee shall conduct a Public bidding for the sale of the following acquired residential properties on May 06, 2002 at Rm. 602, 6th Flr., Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City

| PROP NO. | DESCRIPTION and LOCATION OF PROPERTY | TCT NO. | AREA LOT / FLR. | MINIMUM BID |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | HOUSE AND LOT | | | |
| 1 | Blk 21 Lot 17 Carissa Homes North 1A<br>Bo. Sto. Cristo SJDM, Bulacan | T-27225 (M) | 35.00 / 20.62 | 177,902.21 |
| 2 | Blk 03 Lot 25 Carissa Homes North 4c<br>Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan | T-303765 (M) | 55.00 / 20.00 | 238,273.42 |
| 3 | Blk 01 Lot 04 Carissa Homes North 5C<br>Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan | T-35287 P(M) | 55.00 / 20.00 | 243,080.81 |
| 4 | Blk 23 Lot 40 Carissa Homes North 6<br>Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan | T-385805 (M) | 45.00 / 20.00 | 194,043.58 |
| 5 | Blk 01 Lot 08 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980409 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 180,105.73 |
| 6 | Blk 02 Lot 08 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980397 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 190,450.00 |
| 7 | Blk 06 Lot 22 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-944537 | 22.00 / 20.62 | 263,274.50 |
| 8 | Blk 08 Lot 17 Ph3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980412 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 174,259.87 |
| 9 | Blk 08 Lot 20 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980404 | 53.50 / 20.62 | 234,006.43 |
| 10 | Blk 08 Lot 26 Ph2 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980395 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 174,959.87 |
| 11 | Blk 08 Lot 28 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980393 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 174,259.87 |
| 12 | Blk 11 Lot 34 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-953376 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 177,452.29 |
| 13 | Blk 135 Lot 39 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-953823 | 33.00 / 18.03 | 194,175.56 |
| 14 | Blk 15 Lot 05 PH2 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980410 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 191,150.00 |
| 15 | Blk 15 Lot 20 PH5 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980400 | 61.00 / 20.62 | 247,223.78 |
| 16 | Blk 16 Lot 02 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980403 | 55.50 / 20.62 | 243,328.98 |
| 17 | Blk 23 Lot 06 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980396 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 185,032.24 |
| 18 | Blk 26 Lot 28 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980401 | 54.00 / 20.62 | 231,083.78 |
| 19 | Blk 29 Lot 02 PH3B Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980399 | 79.00 / 20.62 | 293,083.78 |
| 20 | Blk 30 Lot 04 PH2 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980408 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 177,167.62 |
| 21 | Blk 34 Lot 10 PH3B Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980398 | 54.00 / 20.62 | 234,987.74 |
| 22 | Blk 34 Lot 16 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980402 | 58.50 / 20.62 | 242,243.78 |
| 23 | Blk 34 Lot 27 PH4 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980411 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 173,559.87 |
| 24 | Blk 44 Lot 08 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-953377 | 42.00 / 20.62 | 207,499.05 |
| 25 | Blk 46 Lot 04 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980794 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 175,309.87 |
| 26 | Blk 47 Lot 06 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980407 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 174,259.87 |
| 27 | Blk 60 Lot 03 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-953378 | 35.00 / 20.62 | 177,465.79 |
| 28 | Blk 62 Lot 06 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980406 | 33.00 / 18.03 | 185,955.06 |
| 29 | Blk 70 Lot 21 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza<br>Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite | T-980405 | 33.50 / 18.03 | 198,238.24 |
| 30 | Blk 01B Lot 19 La Poblacion 3A<br>Partida, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan | T-347629 | 50.00 / 29.00 | 249,751.71 |
| 31 | Blk 10 Lot 04 La Poblacion 3B<br>Bo. Partida, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan | T-303763 (M) | 64.00 / 29.00 | 271,311.05 |
| 32 | Blk 08 Lot 01 La Poblacion 1C<br>Bo. Partida, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan | T-385804 (M) | 38.00 / 25.00 | 193,729.30 |
| 33 | Blk 72 Lot 17 CH La Trinidad 3<br>Bo. Quintana, Trece Martires City | T-62954 | 70.00 / 25.00 | 309,175.00 |
| 34 | Blk 06 Lot 37 Northridge<br>Bo. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan | T-303764 (M) | 44.00 / 36.00 | 270,444.06 |
| 35 | Blk 07 Lot 18 Northwinds City 3B<br>Bo. Sto Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan | T-385806 (M) | 79.00 / 25.00 | 337,793.33 |
| 36 | Blk 07 Lot 12 Parklane Country Homes Ph I<br>Bo. Santiago, Gen. Trias, Cavite | T-706116 | 36.00 / 22.00 | 232,500.00 |
| 37 | Blk 04 Lot 15 San Marino Heights(SMN2)<br>Bo. Salawag, Dasmarinas, Cavite | T-884348 | 98.00 / 25.00 | 464,402.40 |
| 38 | Blk 14 Lot 85 San Marino South 2<br>Bo. Salawag, Dasmarinas, Cavite | T-953380 | 50.00 / 25.00 | 303,250.00 |
| 39 | Blk 02 Lot 33 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas<br>Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite | T-953822 | 42.00 / 35.97 | 294,670.20 |
| 40 | Blk 02 Lot 34 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas<br>Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite | T-953819 | 65.00 / 35.97 | 364,245.20 |
| 41 | Blk 02 Lot 57 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas<br>Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite | T-953820 | 42.00 / 35.97 | 294,670.20 |
| 42 | Blk 03 Lot 15 Solar Townhomes<br>Bo. Poblacion, Dasmarinas, Cavite | T-953821 | 65.00 / 35.97 | 397,485.00 |
| 43 | Blk 01 Lot 18 Solar Urban Townhomes North<br>Bo. Bagumbong, Caloocan City | C-353380 | 66.00 / 36.00 | 362,004.00 |
| 44 | Blk 32 Lot 18 Southern Heights1<br>Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna | T-478289 | 36.00 / 21.96 | 189,760.43 |
| 45 | Blk 34 Lot 09 Southern Heights 1<br>Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna | T-478288 | 36.50 / 21.96 | 199,980.41 |
| 46 | Blk 48 Lot 12 Southern Heights 1<br>Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna | T-478254 | 36.00 / 21.96 | 189,318.28 |
| 47 | Blk 19 Lot 05 Willow Bend<br>Bo. Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan | T-363767 (M) | 37.00 / 18.00 | 194,306.40 |
| 48 | Blk 53 Lot 08 Willow Bend<br>Bo. Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan | T-363766 (M) | 37.00 / 18.03 | 193,676.35 |
| | LOT ONLY | | | |
| 49 | Lot 8-C-14-A-4-J Medalva Hills Subd., Ph 111<br>Bo. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 628586 | 205.00 | 357,725.00 |
| 50 | Blk 01 Lot 04 Medalva Hills Subd.<br>Bo San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 628842 | 150.00 | 261,750.00 |
| 51 | Blk 01 Lot 06 Medalva Hills Subd. PH 111<br>Angono, Rizal | 627884 | 150.00 | 261,750.00 |
| 52 | Blk 01 Lot 07 Medalva Hills Subd.,<br>Angono, Rizal | 627916 | 135.00 | 235,575.00 |
| 53 | Blk 01 Lot 08 Medalva Hills Subd., PH 111<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 648435 | 135.00 | 235,575.00 |
| 54 | Blk 01 Lot 21 PH 11 Medalva Hills Subd.,<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 648431 | 150.00 | 261,750.00 |
| 55 | Blk 02 Lot 12 PH 111-A Medalva Hills Subd.<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 648437 | 110.00 | 191,950.00 |
| 56 | Blk 05 Lot 04 Medalva Hills Subd.<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 627983 | 150.00 | 261,750.00 |
| 57 | Blk 07 Lot 05 Medalva Hills Subd., PH 111<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 628840 | 160.00 | 279,200.00 |
| 58 | Blk 07 Lot 29A PHI. Medalva Hills Subd.<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 648434 | 90.00 | 157,050.00 |
| 59 | Blk 07 Lot 30B PH I, Medalva Hills Subd.,<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 648432 | 90.00 | 157,050.00 |
| 60 | Blk 09 Lot 23 Medalva Hills Subd., PH II<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 628387 | 140.00 | 244,300.00 |
| 61 | Blk 12 Lot 30 Medalva Hills Subd., PH II<br>San Isidro, Angono, Rizal | 628388 | 150.00 | 261,750.00 |

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

1 Interested Parties are required to secure copies of : (a) INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and (b) BID FORMS from the office of the Manager, - Acquired Asset Management, Rm 602, 6th Flr., Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

2. Sealed proposals in triplicate shall be received at the Office of the Manager, Acquired Asset Management, Rm. 602, 6th Flr., Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting 8:00 A.M NOT LATER THAN 2:00 P.M on May 06, 2002 immediately afterwhich, the said proposals shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

3. Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT IN CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER's / MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) in an amount equivalent to at least TEN PERCENT (10%) of the total bid price.

4. Properties shall be sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from the HDMF.

5. All bidders are advised to visit/inspect the properties for bidding before posting their bid proposals.

6. If the bidder who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she bidded during and after the bidding, his/her deposit shall be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared.

7. ALL AWARDS BY THE BIDDING COMMITTEE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES / PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER / VP FUND MANAGEMENT GROUP

HDMF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY THEREIN OR ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTEGEOUS TO THE FUND. THE DECISION OF THE FUND IS FINAL AND BINDING

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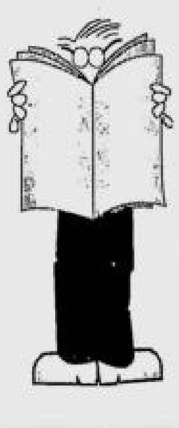

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF MARIKINA
OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

## CERTIFIED LIST OF TAX DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTIES

| DECLARED OWNER AND ADDRESS | TAX DEC. NOS. | LOCATION OF PROPERTY | YEARS DELINQUENT | TOTAL TAX DUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **REYES, LEOVIGILDO & TERESITA**<br>9-B Venezuela St., Loyola Grand Villas<br>Malanday, Marikina City | D-005-04679 | Loyola Grand Villas Malanday | 1997-2001 | 115,905.27 |
| **REYES, LEOVIGILDO & TERESITA**<br>9-B Venezuela St., Loyola Grand Villas, | D-005-00277 | Loyola Grand Villas Malanday | 1997-2001 | 26,286.00 |
| **MENDOZA, RUFO M.**<br>123 Pasadena, Pasay City | D-012-9720 | Loyola Grand Villas Concepcion 1 | 1988-2001 | 101,912.20 |
| **OCAMPO, OSCAR L.**<br>3 Columbia St., Loyola Grand Villas,<br>Barangka, Marikina City | D-001-00054<br>D-001-00055 | Loyola Grand Villas Barangka | 1994 2nd qtr-2001<br>1995-2001 | 206,552.29 |
| **JAVIER, CELIA F.**<br>Liverpool St., Provident Village,<br>J. dela Peña, Marikina City | D-004-02336 | Provident Village Jesus dela Peña | 1994-2001 | 104,917.14 |
| **FLORENCIO CELIA C. ETAL**<br>L-2 B-33 Liverpool St., Provident Village,<br>J. dela Peña, Marikina City | D-004-01328 | Provident Village Jesus dela Peña | 1997-2001 | 10,918.80 |
| **EUSEBIO, MARILOU ETAL**<br>126 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City | D-011-02757<br>D-011-02758 | Provident Village Tañong | 1998-2001<br>1994-2001 | 313,356.84 |
| **EDGEWATER REALTY & DEV. CORP.**<br>26 Yan Buren Northern Greenhills,<br>San Juan, Metro Manila | D-012-01290<br>D-012-09931 | Concepcion | 1986-2001<br>1989-2001 | 9,003,832.65 |
| **INTEGRATED CREDIT & CORP. SERV.**<br>77th Floor Citibank Center Paseo de Roxas<br>Makati City | D-02537<br>D-02538 | Tanong | 1995-2001<br>1995-2001 | 172,083.77 |
| **PASCUAL, CESAR A. & GEOSLE G.**<br>L-16 B-1 Venezuela St. Loyola Grand Villas<br>Marikina City | D-00203<br>D-00204 | Tanong | 1994-2001<br>1994-2001 | 191,933.82 |
| **DELA MECED, NORBERTO JR. T.**<br>Cor. Pero & B. Soliven I LGV Barangka,<br>Marikina City | D-001-00100 | Barangka | 1996-2001 | 101,351.25 |
| **DELA MECED, NORBERTO JR. T.**<br>34 cor. Pero & B. Soliven I LGV Barangka<br>Marikina City | D-001-00101 | Barangka | 1996-2001 | 320,556.79 |
| **SANTOS, RENATO V.**<br>8 Paraguay cor. B. Soliven II LGV Tanong<br>Marikina City | D-011-00087<br>D-011-00088 | Tanong | 1997-2001<br>1997-2001 | 258,814.27 |
| **TREYES, NIXON L. & ROSIE L. SPS**<br>1 Guatemala St. LGV Tanong,<br>Marikina City | D-011-00249<br>D-011-00250 | Tanong | 1998-2001<br>1998-2001 | 141,114.06 |
| **ROSMIL REALTY & DEV. CORP.**<br>50 Ilang-Ilang St. De Castro Homesite.<br>Pasig City | D-001-00176 | Barangka | 1988-2001 | 164,784.96 |

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 7160, after the expiration of the time required to pay the real property tax, the City Treasurer is charged to enforce collection on delinquent taxes and may avail of the civil remedies by administrative action through distraint of goods, chattels, or effects and other personal property of whatever character, including stocks and other securities, debts, credits, bank accounts and interest in and right to personal property, or by levy upon real property and interest in or rights to real property and by judicial action. At any time before the distraint of personal property, payment of the tax with surcharges, interests and penalties may be made at the rate of two (2%) percent per month interest on the unpaid amount or a fraction thereof, until the delinquent tax shall have been fully paid and unless the tax, surcharges and penalties are paid before the expiration of the year for which the tax is due, except when the notice of assessment or special levy is contested administratively or judicially pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 3. Title Two Book II of the Code, the delinquent real property will be sold at public auction and the title to the property will be vested in the purchaser, subject, however, to the right of the delinquent owner of the property or any person having legal interest therein to redeem the property within one (1) year from the date of sale.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

RICARDO L. CASTRO
City Treasurer

CELIA C. DE GUZMAN
Asst. City Treasurer

NOTE:
*In case payment has already been made, please inform the Real Property Tax Section of the City Treasurer's Office, Marikina City.*

(PDI--April 18 & 27, 2002)

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INQUIRER

## TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

### Pay-for-view

*Q.* Who put up the world's first video rental store?

*A.* It was the brainchild of George Anderson, who ran a small shop in Los Angeles renting out 8mm projectors and old cartoon films for children's parties. In 1977, a year after the VHS format was marketed by JVC of Japan, he bought 50 movie titles (among them *Hello Dolly, M*A*S*H** and *The Sound of Music)* from Andre Blay of Michigan, who earlier purchased video rights to the movies from the Fox film company and retailed them by mail order for $50 each. With his collection, Anderson opened the world's first video rental outlet. Even with an annual subscription membership of $50 and a rental charge of $10 a night, business was so good that he was soon into franchising.

**For the Record.** The first cartoons made for television was *Crusader Rabbit*, a series of 5-minute films produced by Jay Ward and Alex Anderson of San Francisco between 1948 and 1951. Ward was a realtor who was hit by a truck immediately after setting up his own business and spent two years in hospital having his shattered legs attended to. It was while hospitalized that he began work on *Crusader Rabbit* which was syndicated in 1949.

***Ooops!*** During World War II, an Allied spy was parachuted into France one night to make contact with the anti-German underground. He was to land in an open field outside of town. Unfortunately, instead of landing where he was supposed to, he landed in the middle of an audience at an outdoor movie. The audience? A company of German SS troops.

**WORD WATCH**

**Malas** : from the Spanish *mala* (no 's'), 'bad, evil.'

PDI – April 18, 2002

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MEGAMALL: 635-0219; 635-0220

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# OBITUARIES

*"Whoever hears my word and believes in HIM who sent ME*
*has eternal life . . . he has crossed over from death to life."*
*John 5:24*

## ELIGIO "Eliboy" DIZON LAGMAN

*Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord in Los Angeles, CA on April 11, 2002 at the age of 52.*

His loving parents **DIOSDADO(+)** and **DANDY(+)**, wife **GINA**, daughter, **DANIELLA LOUISE**, parents-in-law **GLORIA** and **FRED LAGO**, brothers and sisters **LINDA, MANOLO, DODIE, GERRIE, BABY, CHERRIE PIE, KELLY, NETNET, WINNIE, EDGAR, ELMER** and their spouses, nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will arrive on Friday, April 19, 2002 and will lie in state at DELLA STRADA CHURCH, Katipunan, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 23, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00AM Mass.

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*"Though I walk in the valley of darkness,*
*I fear no evil, for thou art with me"*

## FORTUNATO "BOITY" H. SEVILLA, JR.

*Peacefully joined his Creator on April 16, 2002 at the age of 78.*

His wife **Frans**; children & in-laws **Boyay, Mennen & Sito** (†), **Fleur & Boy, Tat & Allen, Cesca, Foyen, Rico & Grace, Ferdie, Frankie & Bing**; grandchildren & great grandchildren, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel D, (Northwing), La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will follow after the 8:00 a.m. Mass & Service on Saturday, April 20, 2002.

---

*Message of Thanks*

We, the family of the late

## JAIME C. CARIASO, M.D.

*Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 11, 2002*

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation
to all those who offered Masses and prayers,
sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways,
condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

---

*We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.*

2 Corinthians 4:14

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## Leonilo Ambrocio Cruz Sr.

Retired Senior Vice President, GSIS
Died at the age of 76.

*He is a native of 103 Barangay Santiago, Malolos, Bulacan*
*He was born January 17, 1926*

He is survived by wife **Cecilia S. Cruz** and children and (grandchildren)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Nicanor** and **Thess** | (**Tina, Maman, Xander** and **Noan**) |
| **Nilo** and **Myrna** | (**Malou, Mina, Cel** and **Jaycee**) |
| **Emer** and **Dory** | (**Lynson** and **Heazel**) |
| **Pen** and **Jo** | (**Cristen, Jean** and **Josh**) |
| **Jonet** and **Violy** | (**Ivy** and **Joey**) |
| **Jake** and **Cecil** | (**Jepoy**) |

Interment will be on April 21, 2002 after the 2 p.m. Mass at the Legacy Park in Malolos, Bulacan.

His remains lie in state at their house in No. 103 Santiago, Malolos.

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A Message of Thanks
From the family of the late

## VIRGILIO "Boi" E. BUNAO

Who was called home by our Heavenly Father
on April 4, 2002
in Summerville, South Carolina, U.S.A.

Your presence, Mass and prayer offerings, messages of sympathy, donations, flowers, and emotional support have made us realize that our beloved father has left a legacy of love among families, relatives, and friends.

Special thanks to Leonard Wood Lodge, #105 of Angeles City and Jose Abad Santos Memorial Lodge #333 of Mabalacat, Philippines for the beautiful and solemn Masonic Rites given to our father.

Sincerely yours,
Wife: **Lina**,
Children: **Verlie** and **Max**, **Vonn** and **Anna**, **Verna** and **Douglas**, **Virgil**, **Vinn** and **Angela**
Grandchildren: **Milka**, **Jonn**, **Anya** and **Elliott**.

---

## AURORA ESPIRITU CASTELLANES

*Peacefully joined her Creator on April 15, 2002 at the age of 89.*

Her bereaved children **PERLA GOSIENGFIAO-ANGLUBEN**, **EMELINA & REY FEBRE**, **EDMUNDO & BENDIMIA SILVA**, **ROMEO & JUDY CHIA**, and **SONIA VALTE**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends mourn her passing but celebrate her eternal rest with the Lord Jesus.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Sunday, April 21, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

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*Nothing that is remembered fades and no one*
*who has touched a heart truly passes away...*

*In loving memory of the*
*SEVENTH Death Anniversary*
*of*

## Luz Puyat Martel

*April 18, 1995*

*Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:*

| | |
|---|---|
| SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO<br>Forbes Park | 6:15 a.m.<br>6:00 p.m. |
| BACLARAN REDEMPTORIST CHURCH<br>Parañaque | 6:45 a.m. |
| ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH<br>Reposo, Makati City | 6:30 a.m. |
| STA. CRUZ CHURCH<br>Sta. Cruz, Manila | 1:00 p.m. |
| SANCTUARIO DE SAN JOSE<br>Greenhills, Mandaluyong | 6:15 a.m. |
| SAN VICENTE DE PAUL CHURCH<br>San Marcelino, Manila | 12:00 n.n. |
| STA. MARIA GORETTI PARISH<br>U.N. Avenue, Manila | 6:00 p.m. |
| OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE<br>Ortigas, Pasig City | 7:00 p.m. |
| ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH<br>Pasay Road, Makati City | 6:00 p.m. |
| IMMACULATE CONCEPCION CHAPEL<br>Quezon City | 6:00 p.m. |
| ASSUMPTION PARISH<br>Leveriza, Manila | 6:15 p.m. |
| HARRISON PLAZA CHAPEL<br>Malate, Manila | 5:30 p.m. |
| OUR LADY OF SORROW<br>F.B. Harrison, Pasay City | 6:00 p.m. |
| ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH<br>Quiapo, Manila | 6:00 a.m. |
| MANILA CATHEDRAL<br>Intramuros, Manila | 7:30 a.m. |
| ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH<br>Humabon Place, Makati City | 6:15 p.m. |

*Her family kindly requests all readers to remember her in their prayers.*

---

## Alberto Antonio R.A. Llamas

of Call Caltex Service Station
San Antonio Village, Makati City

*Peacefully joined our Lord on April 7, 2002*
*at the age of 37.*

His loving parents **Calixto** and **Celia Llamas**; sister **Kathrina**; brothers **Angelito** and **Vittorio Luigi**; sister-in-law **Vicky Abelende Llamas**; nephew **Mark Angelo**; and niece **Jenna Elise** request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Viewing Chapel A of the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Interment will be held today, April 18 after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 2:00 p.m. to be officiated by Msgr. Nico Bautista.

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*"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."*
John 3:10

## Engr. VICENTE CHUA LIMQUECO, JR.

*Peacefully joined his Savior on April 13, 2002*
*at the age of 61.*

His loving parents **VICENTE, SR.** and **MARY**; his dearest wife **LILY**; children **MARY JENNIFER**, **MARY JOAN** and **TAUTI**, **LAWRENCE**, **LANCELOT**, and **JANET** (†); grandchildren **JOSHUA** and **JASMINE**; brother and sisters **TITA** and **JOSEPH**, **LINDA**, **WILLIAM** and **LORNA**, and **AURORA**; nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Louis Chapel, Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley.

Interment will be on Monday, April 22, 2002 at the Chinese Cemetery, Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley, after the 6:00 AM Mass.

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**PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES**
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*Our Dearly Beloved*

## MAJ. ROMEO B. SANTAYANA, SR.

Philippine Air Force Class 41-B
Unisan, Quezon Province

*Peacefully joined our Lord on April 14, 2002 at the age of 87.*

His loving wife **Susie**; children **Greg & Lulu**, **Arthur & Corazon** (†), **Caloy** and **Seanna**, **Olive & Butch**, **Boy & Annee**, **Glen & Beth**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; his sister **Ester S. Vizcocho**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Hall, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 20, 2002 at San Juan Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 AM Mass.

# MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

# Advocates, experts join forces to push for alternative fuels

By Tessa R. Salazar

**THE TRANSPORT industry is seen as one of the major culprits causing pollution and the greenhouse effect. Diesel fuel consumption in Metro Manila alone runs up to 20 million liters per day. Diesel combustion emits carbon dioxide, contributing to warming atmospheric temperatures leading to the so-called greenhouse effect. Blending diesel with alternative fuels is seen to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, thereby reducing greenhouse effects.**

Metro Manila, ranked the 18th largest metropolis in the world, accounts for around 40 percent of the total registered vehicles in the Philippines. About 1.3 million vehicles are in Metro Manila. The ratio of gasoline to diesel vehicles is 2:1, according to RL Alco Diesel Enterprises president Rudy N. Lantano. These vehicles, he said, are responsible for 75 percent of the total airborne pollutants. Diesel-driven vehicles produce the bulk of carbon monoxide, sulfur oxide and particulate matter, while gas engines produce the bulk of lead ethylene dibromide and dichloride. Stationary engines such as power plants, said Lantano, are the biggest source of sulfur oxides, which cause "acid rains."

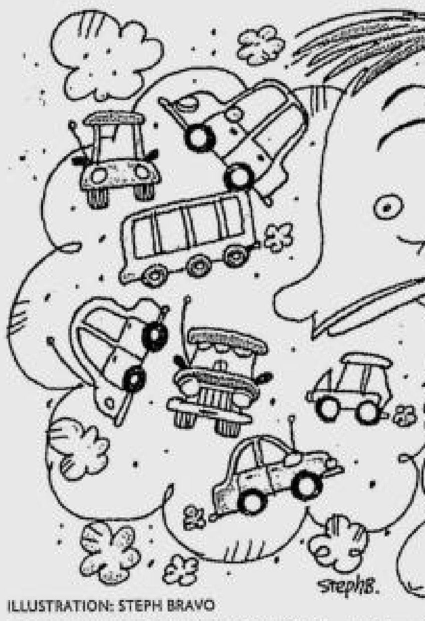
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

### First 'fruit'

The clamor, meanwhile, to do something about the sight, smell and feel of pollution, as well as the diseases that go with it, bore its first "fruit" on April 11.

A first of a series of roundtable discussions to solve the barriers that prevent alternative fuels from being produced and used in the country was held by the Society for the Advancement of Technology Management of the Philippines with environment and energy experts, policymakers, fuel manufacturers and government officials. The SATMP is a tripartite alliance of technology advocates in the government, industry and the academe.

### Initiatives

The April 11 roundtable discussion left more questions than answers. It, however, provided the opportunity to assess loopholes and get a clearer view of the existing stumbling blocks to alternative fuels in the country. Four months ago, the SATMP revealed to the INQUIRER its study showing Filipino motorists were not ready to shift to alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, coconut methyl ester and alco-diesel despite obvious environmental benefits. The main culprit to their use: economics and public attitude.

The recent roundtable discussion revolved around technology and financial viability and the lack of a national comprehensive policy for alternative fuels.

The SATMP cited moves to convince auto manufacturers to produce alternative fuel-friendly engines for the country. It said the Thai government had been aggressively pursuing the manufacture of engines that could accommodate palm oil—with the help of Toyota's expertise and technology. Unfortunately, no representative auto manufacturer was present during the discussion.

The Department of Science and Technology, meanwhile, cited other initiatives that could bring the country closer to the nationwide application of alternative fuels. Some of its projects are commercialization activities of the alco-diesel and the setting up of a 3-metric-ton plant in Romblon, a strong coconut producing area.

### Support

Science research specialist Nonilo Peña of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development said that in the Echague, Isabela plant, the DOST is now working with the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Commission to sell the natural gas in a limited scale in Echague, Isabela.

"We're trying to control three vehicles for the pilot commercialization stage to entice the public and create awareness on the CNG as alternative fuel," said Peña.

Caltex Philippines, meanwhile, announced that it was willing to lend technical assistance in the creation of the Philippine National Standard for biodiesel.

"There is a positive reception on the part of the oil companies to support the technical needs of the private sector," said SATMP engineer Danilo Napalinga.

An Asian Development Bank representative stressed that there were available funds for the transport sector that could be used for testing, research and development.

A representative of Shell Philippines Exploration, project operator of the Malampaya oil and gas project, appealed to the organization to stop painting a pessimistic outlook on the viability of CNGs (compressed natural gases). The reality, said representative Pons Carpio, is that the country already has the supply, and it doesn't have to worry about its availability for at least the next 20 years. Aside from the promise that it can generate a third of Luzon's energy means, proponents of the CNG plan to make

ADVOCATES/ B13

# A slide in quality

**ON THE ROAD**

*Aida Sevilla-Mendoza*

SHOCKING but true: Mercedes-Benz, the icon of automotive engineering excellence, is slipping in quality surveys.

A front-page story bylined from Frankfurt last week by John Schmid of the International Herald Tribune reported that J.D. Powers & Associates, the US market research firm, recently ranked Mercedes 31st out of 35 brands. In Germany, a top-of-the-line Mercedes finished 12th in national rankings, Schmid wrote. Auto Motor Sport, the German magazine, also gave Mercedes-Benz surprisingly poor marks.

Car buffs are "aghast at the slide in Mercedes quality," Schmid continued. But Juergen Schrempp, the CEO of DaimlerChrysler, appears to be unconcerned since he is focused on achieving a global presence by expanding in the triad markets of North America (through its takeover of Chrysler, the third largest carmaker in the United States), Europe and Asia (via its 37 percent stake in Mitsubishi Motors Corp., Japan's fourth biggest car manufacturer).

The quality control problems of Mercedes haven't affected its sales yet as the brand remains the only consistent source of profit in the DaimlerChrysler empire, which reported a net loss of US$735 million in 2001 because of heavy restructuring charges at Chrysler and Mitsubishi. The legendary mystique of the Mercedes-Benz brand is still strong and the company still has time to correct the slide in quality. But Schrempp shouldn't wait too long to tackle the quality problem. If neglected too long, the perceived decline in quality may eventually dent sales and consequently the bottom line.

Look at what happened to Ford Motor Co., the world's second largest producer of cars and trucks. Early this year, Ford announced it would cut 35,000 jobs worldwide and close five plants to reduce expenses and eliminate losses. For 2001, Ford reported a net loss of $5.45 billion, its first annual loss since 1992—after posting a $6.67 billion profit for 2000. According to the New York Times Service, Ford's market share in North America fell to 21.9 percent last year from 23 percent in 2000 and is expected to fall further this year.

While it may be true that its disastrous dispute with Bridgestone/Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. is principally what whipsawed Ford in 2000 and 2001 (and led to the sacking of its charismatic CEO, Jacques Nasser), consumer complaints against Ford rusted holes into the company's quality image even before Firestone blamed the tire failures on safety problems in Ford's best-selling Explorer SUV.

Ford faced six separate class-action lawsuits in six states over a defective ignition mechanism in two million Ford vehicles produced from 1983 to 1996 that can cause the vehicles to stall at high speeds. In 2000, Ford had to extend for the third time the warranty on more than one million Ford vehicles ranging from the Mustang to the Windstar because the 3.8-liter V6 engine they were equipped with was prone to head-gasket failure.

More recently, Arizona's attorney general asked Ford to recall hundreds of thousands of cars, including the Crown Victoria sedans used as police cruisers across the United States, the Mercury Grand Marquis and Lincoln Town Cars built between 1992 and 2001 because their fuel tanks are located behind the rear axle and thus tend to leak fuel and catch fire after high-speed, rear-end collisions. Ford disagreed with the attorney general and claimed that the cars in question passed its own 50-mph rear-end crash tests.

But the most damning indictment yet came from a Ford/Lincoln/Mercury dealer in Baytown, Texas who wrote to Automobile magazine (April 2002) that he and other Ford retailers "have watched these past few years as our products find more and more ways to break and bring customers scowling to our driveways, remembering the size of the checks they wrote and having difficulty resolving that with the mechanical failures they are experiencing. By and large, we don't see problems we attribute to the workers who assemble the cars. Instead, we see components that are too flimsy to do the job and money left out of the engineering and design that would have made them last. Money that instead went to Ford's bottom line... Life in retail has been more stressful than usual as we watch quality going away and 'consumer focus' programs proliferating. We are all working hard to keep customers happy and bring them back to our brands, but.... Basics. Let's just have some good cars, okay?"

* * *

**TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER:** Have a nice day... somewhere else.

* * *

*E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph*

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# Accident capital of Metro Manila

**FULL TANK**

*Al Mendoza*

I AM saddened to learn that Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, that stretch of road between the Quezon Memorial Circle and Fairview, has become the accident capital of Metro Manila. The reason is that I live in a village that uses Commonwealth Avenue as its main access to the metropolis.

I cite a police report which shows that last year alone, Commonwealth Avenue produced Metro Manila's most number of accidents: 3,792. That's an average of 316 accidents a month.

I can believe that.

Not a week passes that I don't see accidents there, like vehicle collisions and pedestrians getting hit by vehicles.

* * *

**Commonwealth Avenue has, indeed, become a haven for speed demons. They usually come in the form of buses that bully smaller vehicles. Buses have this dangerous habit of racing against each other in desperate bids to jockey for passengers' attention.**

**The recently widened avenue seems to entice drivers to drive recklessly, most of the culprits being those behind the wheel of public utility vehicles like buses, jeepneys and taxis.**

**Usually, pedestrians get hit for two reasons: (1) Because of reckless drivers and (2) Because pedestrians themselves are too bold as to risk life and limb by continuously ignoring the use of overpasses when they cross Commonwealth Avenue.**

**Just very recently, a woman and her daughter were killed after they got hit by a van near the Iglesia ni Cristo overpass. The victim's husband and son suffered serious injuries.**

* * *

There's a pressing need to deploy more traffic enforcers along Commonwealth Avenue. And let's have the real ones, please. I mean, those who would really enforce the law to the letter.

Along Commonwealth Avenue, you will see a lot of public utility vehicles disobeying traffic signs—in full view of traffic enforcers!

As I keep saying here, traffic signs seem useless in this country. They are there only to be ignored by everybody—from the driver to the law enforcer, many pedestrians included.

I also strongly suggest that the entire stretch of Commonwealth Avenue's island should be fenced in such a manner that pedestrians cannot cross the avenue anytime of day.

They have built a tunnel there, fine.

They have widened the avenue, fine.

They have not stopped widening the avenue, fine.

But without a well-meaning move to field in traffic enforcers all willing to impose their will both on erring pedestrians and motorists, those improvements mean nothing.

And, yes, without fences sturdy enough to withstand man's appetite for vandalism, those structures are but efforts bereft of true worth.

* * *

**Michael Schumacher has done it again.**

**The German ace, gunning for his third straight crown and a record-equaling fifth, drove his red Ferrari to victory in the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday to pull away in the Formula 1.**

**He has now won three of the first four stops of the 17-leg Formula 1. He topped the opener in Melbourne on March 3, placed third in Kuala Lumpur on March 17 and prevailed in Brazil on March 31.**

**Actually, it's been a Schumacher Show thus far.**

**Ralf Schumacher, Michael's younger brother on board a Williams-BMW, won the Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang Circuit.**

* * *

It's still a long way to go before Michael Schumacher can claim overall F1 victory. There are still 13 legs left. Many more things—dramatic or otherwise—can happen in the world's No. 1 motor sport. As we love to say, it's not over until it's over.

Now this: Do you know that there's a lot of spying going on in Formula 1 right before a race is held?

In Kuala Lumpur last month, a spying incident involving a female aerodynamicist almost triggered a fistfight between the camps of Ferrari and Williams-BMW.

An aerodynamicist is one of the richest members of a racing crew in Formula 1. He/she earns a princely sum annually that is almost the equivalent of, maybe, my 20 years of take-home pay here.

* * *

***QUOTE ME.* The speed limit sign on both South and North expressways should only be treated as a suggestion. Otherwise, it can be used to camouflage mulcting activities by law enforcers.**

# Advocates...

From B12

the transport sector benefit from this discovery.

### Mixed reactions

The SATMP study triggered mixed reactions from different sectors of society. The SATMP, located at the UP School of Economics in Diliman, Quezon City, indicated that alternative fuels were seen as too expensive, difficult to access and its efficacy and effects on present diesel or gasoline combustion engines were still in question. Among the factors that were seen to make alternative fuels costly were the raw materials needed to produce alco-diesel, CNG and CME (coco methyl ester).

Despite all these, the SATMP said it saw alternative fuels as the country's chance to stand on its own through its own natural resources to compensate for the oil price increases triggered by the Middle East crises. It could also tap the coconut industry and save millions of jobs. Alternative fuels could also expand the technological capability of the Philippines.

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## ISUZU FUEGO SPORT

# Slugging it out with local off-roaders

**Text and photo by Charles E. Buban**

CAPAS, TARLAC—It's already about 5 km from Barangay Sta. Juliana, our jump-off point going to Mt. Pinatubo. Beyond us is a wide expanse of lahar and wide, open spaces. This is the only expansive region of the Philippines that evokes images of the Wild West frontier but without the cowboys and Indians.

Gray clouds obscured the ground for the first two hours of the drive. Then the sky cleared completely, exposing us to the scorching heat of the sun. The yellow four-wheel-drive Isuzu Fuego Sport I'm strapped into took some punishment as we drove into huge sandstones and squelchy sands.

Even more astonishing than our trouble-free ride, however, was the fact that the two Fuegos we're riding in can match the power of the other big-wheeled off roaders that also participated in this year's Pinatubo Summer Trek.

### Scorching heat

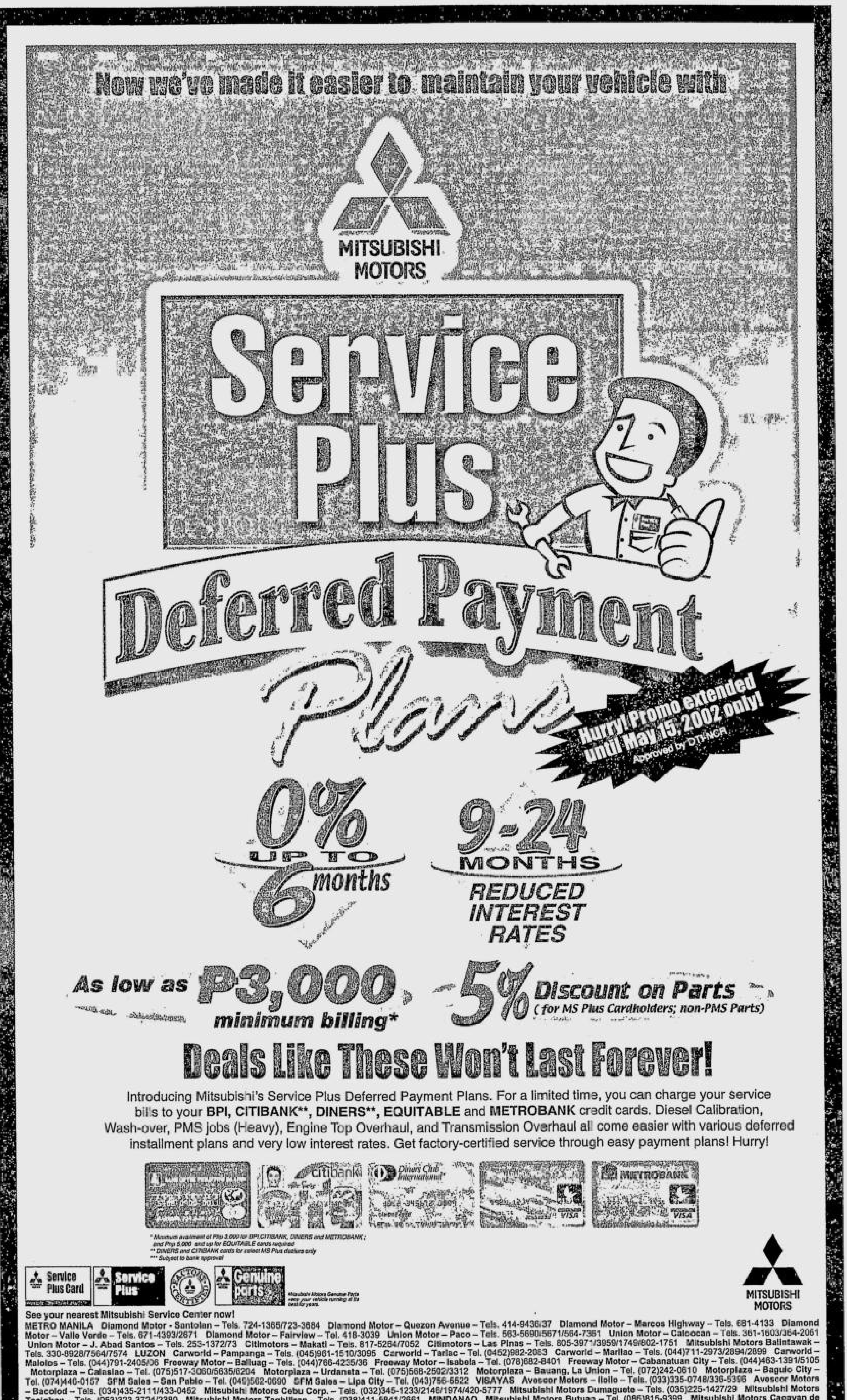
Not only that Mt. Pinatubo has some of the finest off-road trails in the country, but also it is very picturesque. No wonder it's the favorite backdrop for a number of off-road vehicle advertisements. The terrain is always changing and you can't just drive there without studying the weather.

"You can't go here when it's raining unless you want to bury your vehicle in the soft sands and the water level can get unpredictably high on river crossings," said one of the Aeta guides who accompanied us.

Indeed, among the highlights of our trip were the numerous river crossings and you needed the right approach and maneuver to get through these rivers. Notwithstanding, our 2.8 diesel high-charge turbo pickups never complained. "It only shows that the four-wheel-drive Fuego is capable of getting you out of extreme situations. The pickup's ground clearance is high enough to get you out of high water and its engine is quite powerful to pull you out of it," said Myrna Gonzales, senior manager and customer relations of Isuzu Philippines.

Sadly, our ride had to end several kilometers from the crater lake of Mt. Pinatubo. We had to leave our vehicles and walk the rest of the way as large boulders and steep terrain would be quite impossible for our vehicles to cross. After all, it was time we gave our vehicles some rest and for us to sweat out the climb.

**THE FUEGO is capable of withstanding the rough terrains of Mt. Pinatubo along with the locally assembled big wheels.**



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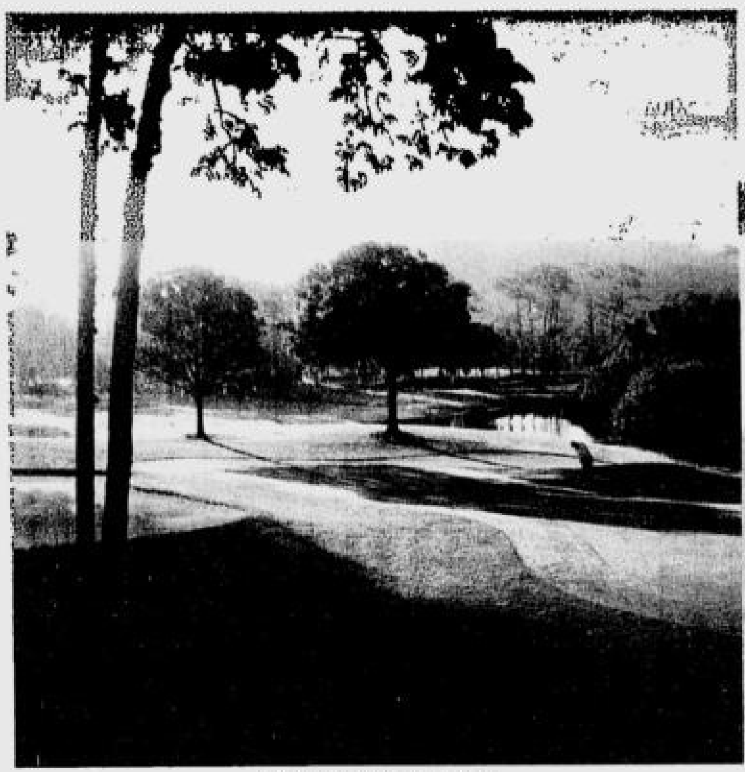
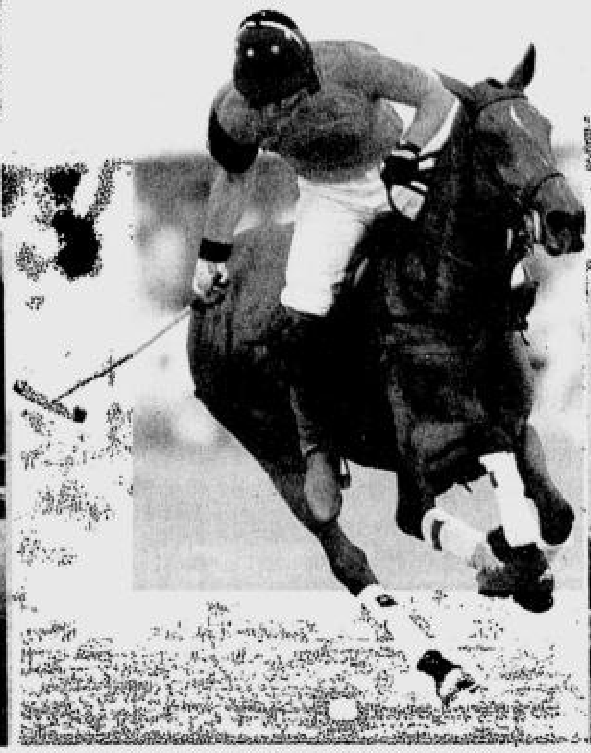


*Manila Golf and Country Club*



*Manila Polo Club*

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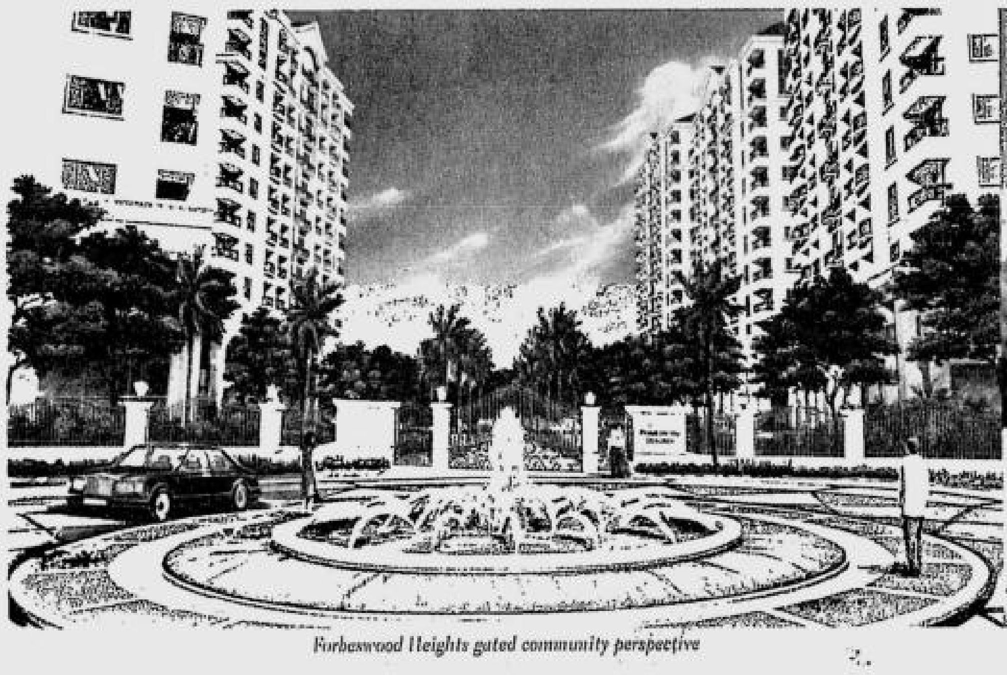
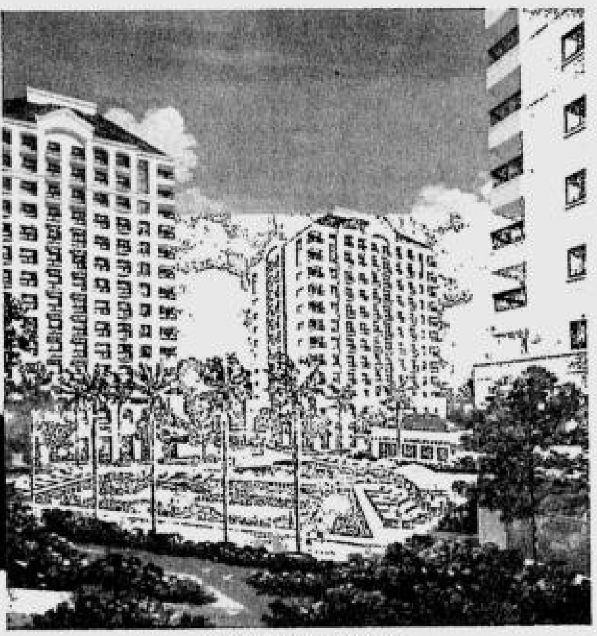


*Forbeswood Heights gated community perspective*

*Village town center*



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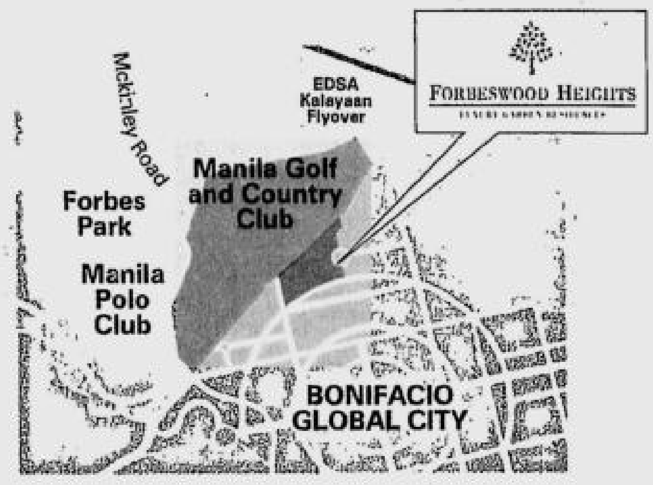
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LIFESTYLE Tastes

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

BRAISED beef short rib pot au feu style with vegetables scented with truffle sauce

> Besides USDA beef, Prince Albert is also featuring such Yankee staples as river trout, sea bass, grouper and salmon cooked the American, French or fusion way

# Star-spangled foodfest

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Betoy Johnson

"WE have had several food festivals before featuring imported meats," says Cyrille Soenen, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's executive sous chef, "but US meat is still beyond compare."

The Frenchman has teamed up with visiting American colleague Dale Hart for "America the Bountiful," an ongoing food festival launched recently by the US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service. Aside from an invitational trade show featuring American produce, seafood, processed foods and meats at the Hotel Inter-Continental's grand ballroom, the event includes a consumer product showcase that ends today at the Glorietta's Activity Center.

For its part, the Hotel Inter-Continental (tel. 815-9711) is holding two ongoing food festivals until May 3 featuring glorious American dishes: "American-French Fusion" at the Prince Albert Rotisserie and "The Great America" at the Café Jeepney. David Lease, the hotel's American executive chef, also lends his culinary expertise at the Café Jeepney.

What makes American meat, particularly the melt-in-the-mouth goodness of Angus beef, special?

"Whether it's for domestic consumption or export," says the Los Angeles-based Hart, "every shipment of meat passes through USDA's rigorous inspection and grading standards."

Each head of cattle, of course, receives the best diet and scientific medical care long before it's slaughtered. Case in point: while the European beef industry had been devastated because of mad-cow disease two years ago, its American counterpart had remained virtually unscathed by the catastrophe.

Aside from beef, Prince Albert is also featuring such American staples as river trout, sea bass, grouper and salmon cooked the American, French or fusion way. Close to 30 percent of the ingredients is sourced locally.

"The dishes are actually a US, French and Filipino fusion," says Soenen. "We would be using a number of items from the Philippines."

### American-French fusion

At a recent press lunch, the two whip up a succession of French and American dishes, beginning with white and black bean soup with chorizo cappuccino. The French soup, a yin and yang broth, if you will, has a thick and creamy consistency that is surprisingly light and savory on the palate.

Next comes the appetizer, the Jonah crab cake with hints of the richness and texture of Louisiana's seafood bounty. "Jonah, by the way, is a kind of crab," says Hart to a teasing group of newshens. "She's not somebody I know."

Despite their attempts at Franco-American fusion, the two won't be coming out exclusively with the scents and flavors of French

STAR/ p.C2

CHEFS Cyrille Soenen and Dale Hart

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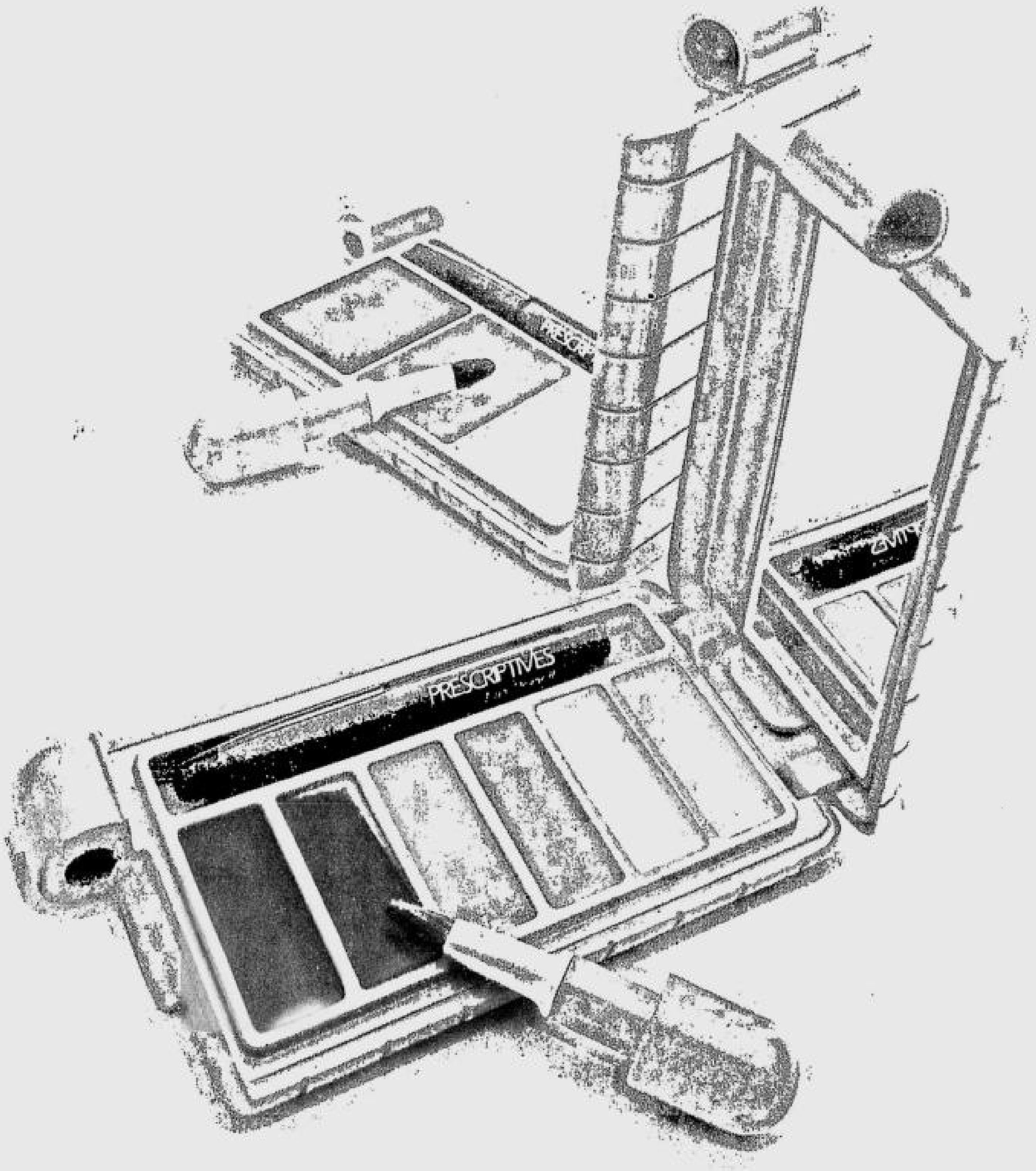

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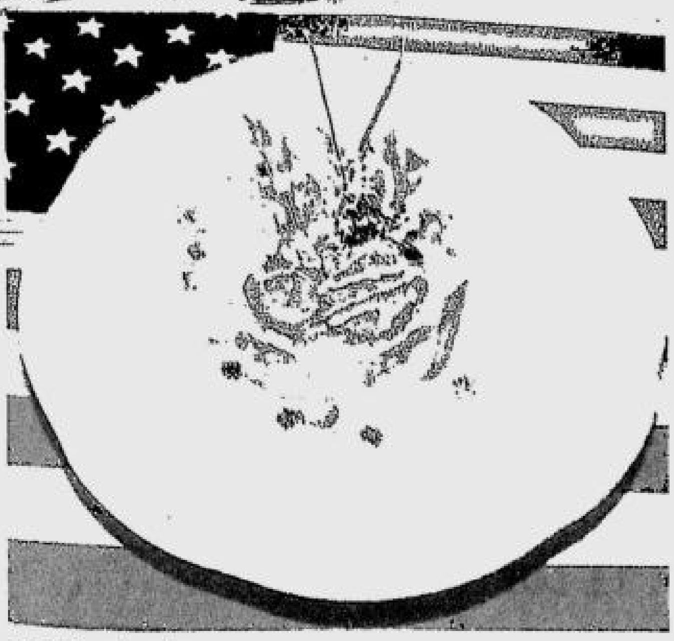
# Star-spangled foodfest

From page C1


JONAH crab cakes

Louisiana. The fusion dishes will cover a wider range of influences and inspirations from both countries, they assure. Surprisingly, however, the duo doesn't prepare any of their strictly fusion offerings on the menu.

If fusion is at work at all, it is evident in that almost all of the dishes have been cooked the French way with ingredients sourced mostly from America.

The roasted American sea bass with garlic confit, gratinated mussel and squid ragout is superb both in taste and presentation. Cooked in butter and generously sprinkled with parsley, the rich mussel is a perfect foil to the fresh and simple flavor of the sea bass.

### Pièce de résistance

To our mind, however, the meal's pièce de résistance is the braised US beef short rib pot au feu style, served with vegetables and scented with truffle sauce. Call it *bulalo* à la French—pieces of short ribs were cooked over slow fire and flavored with vegetables and a thin broth of truffle sauce. Slivers of beef readily separated from the bone.

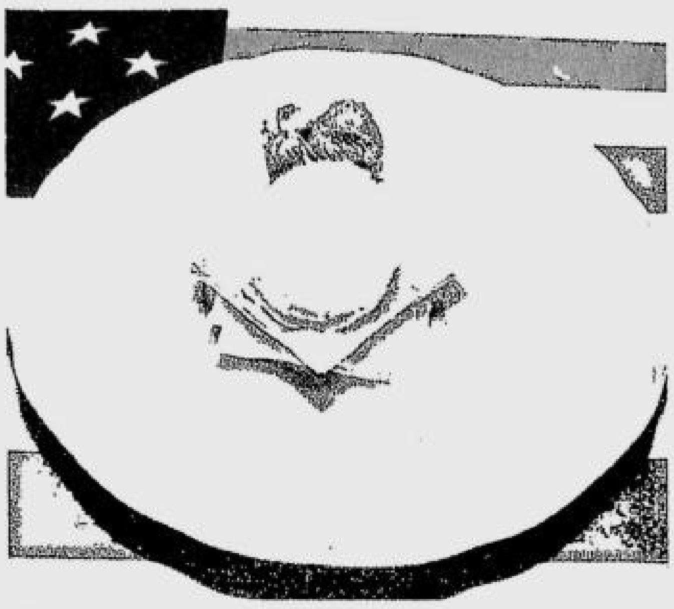
Modest serving size has left us with enough room for a dessert as American as hot apple ginger tart topped with vanilla bean ice cream and light ginger caramel sauce.

How the two consummate chefs have been able to piece together an eclectic menu is a story in itself. No food fight is likely to break out in the kitchen as far as the two men are concerned.

"This is the first time we've worked together," says Soenen, "but I feel like I've known him quite well. We've been in close communication via e-mail months before."

Because of their passion for cooking, the two quickly understood each other as soon as they buckled down to work early last week. "The bonding between us was instant," says Hart, "perhaps because we both enjoy and share the same passion for our work. I attribute it also to exposure." Both have been trained by some of the best French chefs. Food, much like music, is indeed a universal language.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*


HOT apple ginger tart topped with vanilla bean ice cream and light ginger caramel sauce

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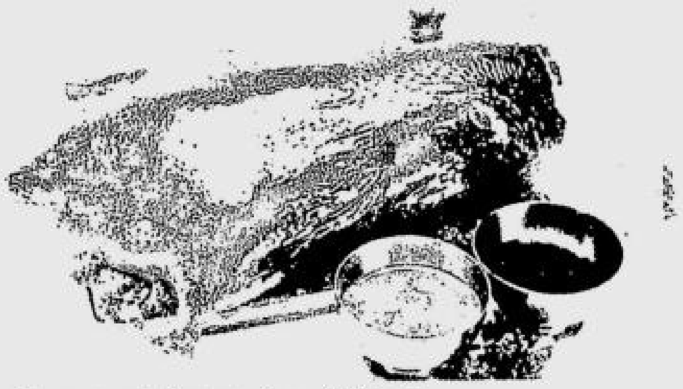
# Roast duck and goose all year



ROASTED duck is now available all year round at Classic Roast, which specializes in the traditional Chinese way of cooking duck. The duck is brined for six hours in wine and brandy, then marinated and hung to dry for another 12 hours. It is then roasted to golden brown. Many satisfied customers have compared it to Yung Kee of Hong Kong. The Roast Duck weighs 2-2.3 kg and comes with hoisin and plum sauce at P1,600 apiece.

Classic Roast also offers Roast Goose that tastes as good as the duck, but with a slightly different texture. The Roast Goose weighs around 2.5 kg and comes with hoisin and plum sauce at P2,000 apiece.

Other gourmet offerings include Roast Duck Siopao, which is minced duck with carrots and chestnuts in a tasty bun; and Duck Liver Paté. The cocktail-sized Roast Duck Siopao is priced at P20 apiece, packed by the dozen, with hoisin sauce. The Duck Liver Paté comes in 200-g packs at P275 each.

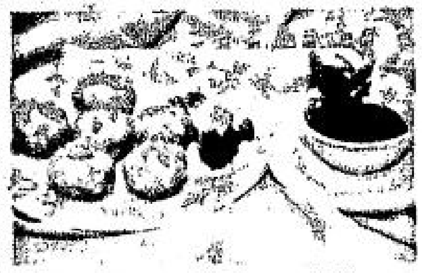
Classic Roast products are packed in gift boxes. Call 687-4822 or 631-0861 or (0917)837-6400. Home delivery is available in Alabang, Makati, San Juan and Quezon City.

# Food club goes on tour

THE NESTLÉ Club, an organization dedicated to promoting "Good Food, Good Life" for Filipino families, goes on a provincial tour this summer to share the expertise of its culinary consultants in key cities this month.

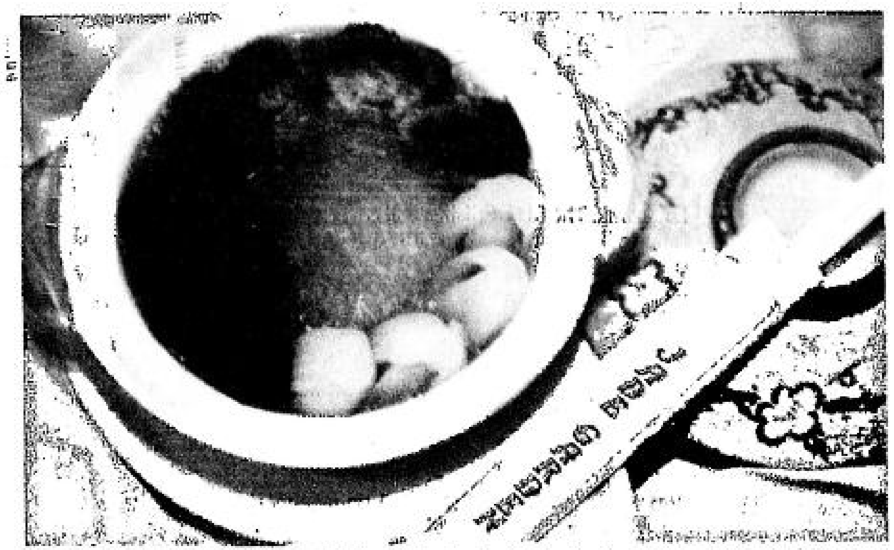
Chef Fern Aracama, an acclaimed restaurateur, culinary guru and host of the culinary TV show "What About My Place?," will conduct the Cebu sessions on April 20 at the Marriot Hotel. Reservations will be accepted at the hotel lobby, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Chef Fern will create mouth-watering salads, main dishes and dessert treats in time for your fiesta celebration.

A P100 registration fee for headcount and wrappers of Maggi Flavor-it Meat Powder, Maggi Broth Cubes, Maggi Sinigang, Nido Fortified or Nido Full Cream box tops or foil lids are needed for game raffle from participants. Limited seats available on first-come, first-serve basis. Snacks will be served.



DEEP-FRIED in corn oil, taro balls topped with cashew nut with a special dip is a top favorite.

# *Going green this summer*

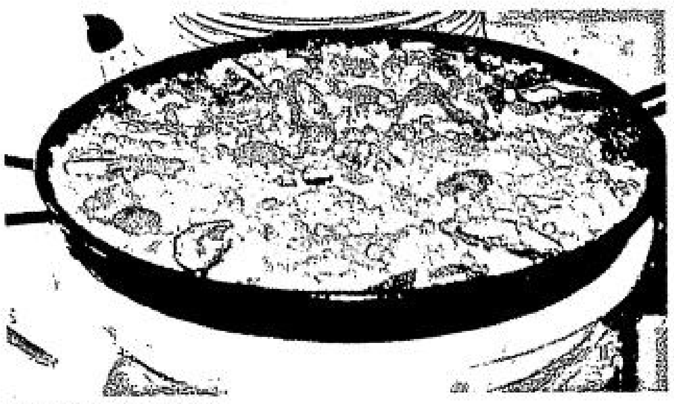


SIMPLY "green and delicious" is Jade Garden's braised mixed vegetables in hot casserole.

Is it possible to enjoy good Chinese food without the guilt? Jade Garden certainly believes so. In fact, diners may find one whole page in the restaurant menu that is dedicated to all vegetarian advocates. This summer season, the restaurant is proud to focus on things "green and delicious."

For a group of four to five persons, enjoy a guiltless "green" set menu that consists of mashed winter melon with straw mushrooms soup, fried minced turnips (*singkamas*) served with lettuce, fried eggplant and young corn with *tausi* in sizzling plate, deep-fried *taro* balls with special dip, braised mixed vegetables in hot casserole, fried rice with olive leaves and refreshing almond jelly with fresh tropical fruit cocktail for a triumphant dessert, all for a good price of P1,180 plus. For a group of 10, enjoy the same sumptuous set menu for P3,200 plus.

An affiliate of Jade Garden Hong Kong, Jade Garden Chinese Restaurant is located at Greenbelt 1, Greenbelt Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 892-2319/2636). The "'Green and Delicious" promo starts on April 19, lunch and dinner.



*PAELLA* on the buffet

# A name with many resonances

From page C4

*jamon Serrano, chorizos, angulas, sobreasada,* etc.—are available, too. Asked why this new venture, Don Anastacio simply says, "Quezon City needs me now." It is definitely worth a visit.

Final postscript: The next time you crave *buko* water and flesh, do not just take a young coconut, lop its top off and insert a straw. Find, if you can, a vendor who uses the *sungay* (a thin curved strip of carabao horn) to carve out the flesh with the water within, and not a drop spilled. That would not only be food, but a cultural experience as well.

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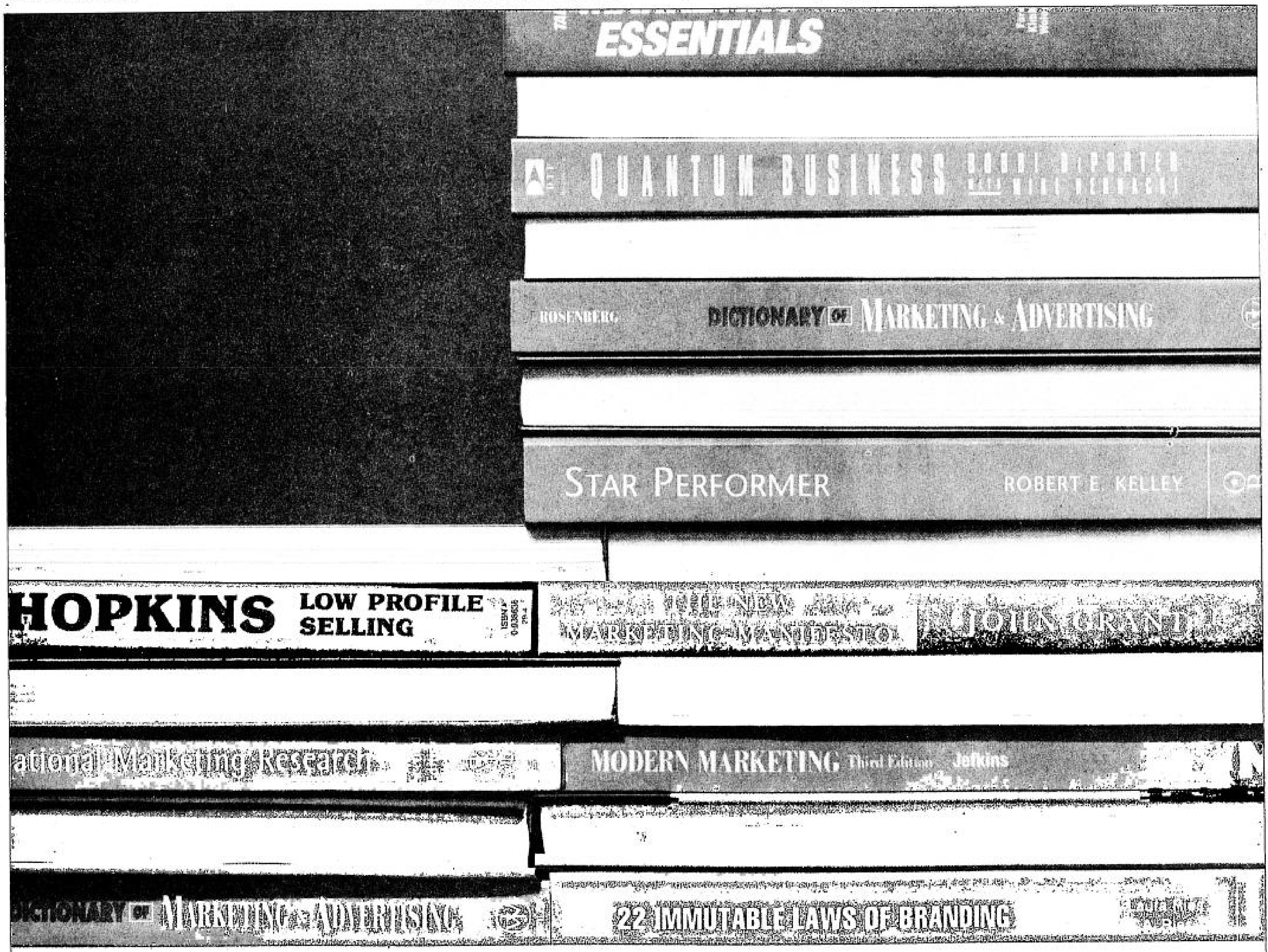
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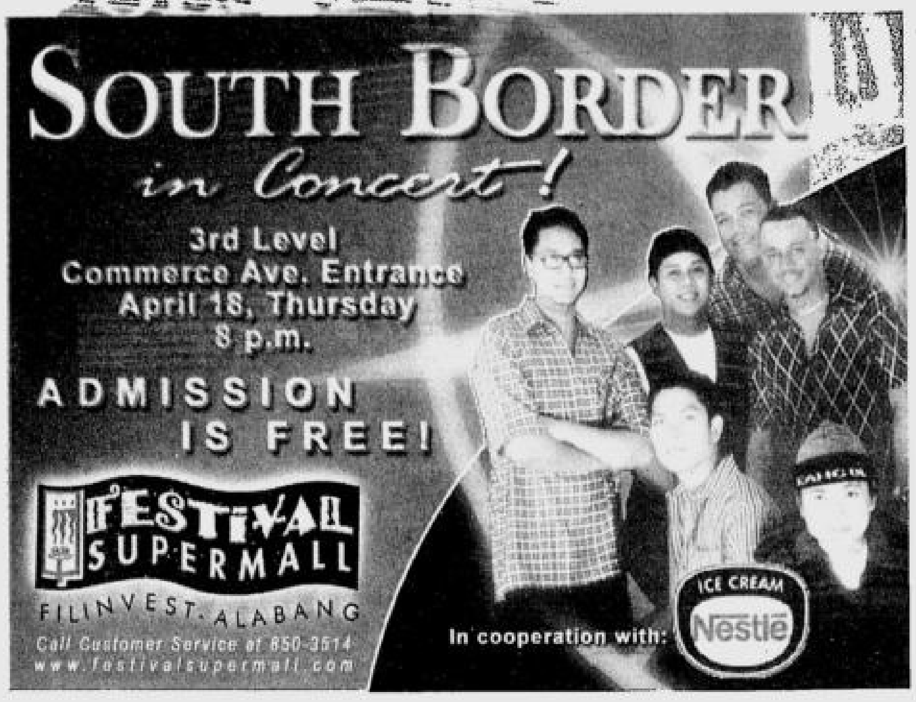

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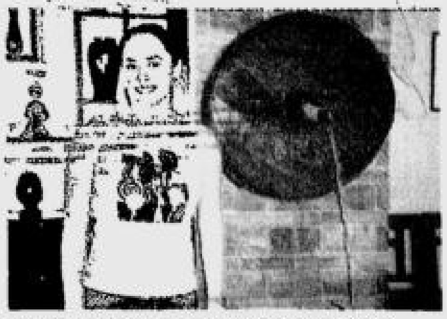

THELINA Nuval and Celadon fountain

# A name with many resonances

**IN GOOD TASTE**

*Doreen G. Fernandez*

CELADON is a pale-green color, like young, opaque jade. It is also Chinese pottery glaze of this color, found on some of the tradeware excavated in the Philippines. It is also the popular name for the Thai tableware still fired in the old kilns of Chieng Mai.

Long ago I bought a whole set of new celadon ware in the old design, and had it shipped home. A labor strike and a typhoon caught it in Manila, and it seemingly sat on a pier for weeks. It arrived in my home—not in smithereens, as I had thought, but whole, with only one chipped cup, which was speedily replaced. It included serving pieces and shrimp cocktail cups, which goes to show how resonant the word Celadon is to us Asians.

And now this word with many resonances is the name of a restaurant featuring Asian cuisine. It is one of the many new, fast-sprouting restaurants in the Eastwood area in Libis, QC. Owned and managed by Thelina Nuval (Eastwood Citywalk, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, C5; tel. 421-1733; telefax 421-1964), it expresses its Asian-ness in the dark wooden furniture, the Japanese-style lamps, vases and figurines, plants and wall décor. And especially in the menu.

Appetizers and salads include, for example, Korean *mandoo tuguim* (fried dumplings) and fiery *kimchi;* Vietnamese *lumpia*, and chicken salad; Chinese Oriental Salad and steamed *siomai;* and Japanese Crab Salad.

Soups and noodles begin with *champong*, a spicy Korean noodle soup with seafood, Japanese *sukiyaki* and Chinese chicken noodle soup.

Main dishes include Japanese *tong katsu* (breaded pork); Chinese Sweet and Sour Pork, Lapu-lapu Fillet in Garlic Sauce and Chili Prawns; Vietnamese Stuffed Squid; Korean Braised Tofu and *O Jim o Bokom* (spicy squid sauté). Rice dishes run the spectrum: plain rice, garlic rice, Yang Chow Fried Rice (Chinese); California Maki (Japanese); *Dolsok Bibimbop* (rice with vegetables, beef and shrimp served in a clay pot).

Hot and spicy? Yes, most of it is, but the chef will tone the chili fires down if requested. Bottomless iced tea and a constellation of shakes, juices, sherbets and fresh fruits contribute their cooling ways.

Thelina is pretty, friendly and attentive. The waiters are swift and silent. The food comes in many shades of Asian fire. It is a good place to try out one's chili courage.

## Postscripts

The first, overall survey of a restaurant is necessary, but may not tell all. A subsequent visit may reveal other virtues previously unnoticed. A new branch, a new menu, a new chef may bring unexpected delights. Witness:

**Eating for someone else.** My dear friend Luigi Bernas, living in Europe, was given a plum cake for me by a former student. Knowing he could not get it to Manila fresh because of his schedule, he suggested that he eat it for me, and that I in turn eat something on his behalf. Exchange pleasures, in other words, without sharing a plate. His prescription for what I must eat for him was simple: Adobong Talong by Abby's House, all natural ingredients without preservatives (tel. 852-5312; fax 852-0402). It was superior, wonderful, unforgettable. Simple *adobong talong*, as simple as a backyard eggplant—or a sunset.

**From Imus, Cavite.** Lisa Jacinto Alvendia, caterer and cookbook writer, has roots in Imus, Cavite, where her mother's family, the Sayocs, are based. After I wrote a review of her giant book on catering, she immediately spoke her thanks with food. First, her husband Jun Alvendia delivered, upon her orders, *pancit palabok* from the Plaza Canteen in the middle of town, *kasilyo (quesillo;* spreadable *kesong puti)* from a private maker, and the famous large Tuklong *kutsinta*. Since Lisa is in the US just now putting a son into school, she also sent a selection of cheeses and crackers. Thanks, Lisa; your expressions of thanks are delicious.

**Alba's in Quezon City.** The last word on Don Anastacio de Alba's Spanish cuisine was not said in Makati. This new Quezon City outlet is spacious, bright and well shepherded by Don Anastacio and his son Miguel Angel. The fabulous buffet including *tapas, paella, cochinillo asado* and desserts like *leche flan, canonigo* and *maja blanca*, reigns at noon. And all the other Alba's delicatessen products—

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INTERIOR of Celadon

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